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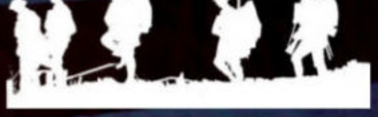
Toxic terror in the trenches

100 years since the Battle of Ypres



HITLER'S GERMANY

Survival and slaughter in the Nazi state

REAL KING ARTHUR

Unearth the Roman roots of Britain's legend

THE FIRST PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

How one man rose from humble farmer to founding father

Gunfights & the gold rush

The grisly truth behind life in the American Wild West

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The birth of civilisation

What did the Ancient Greeks do for the modern world?

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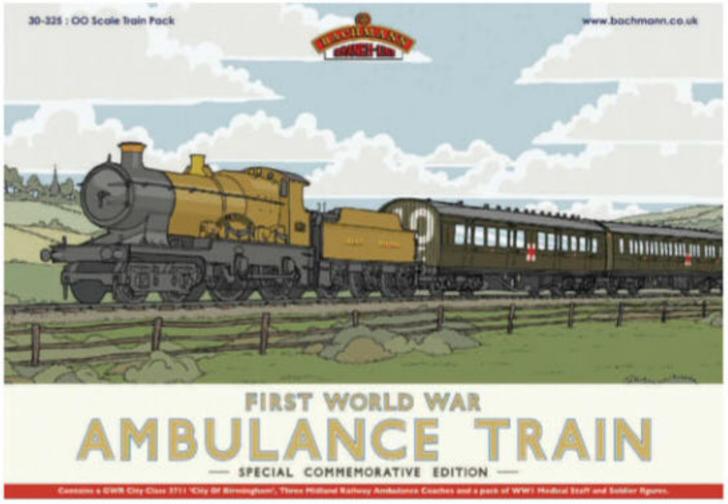
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Turn to page 42 for our Bluffer's Guide to the Russian Revolution

Welcome

The story of George Washington is shrouded in myth – a man who couldn't tell a lie, had Herculean strength, and who never knew anything but victory. In fact, Washington lost more battles than he won, and no, he never did cut down that cherry tree. This issue, we plot Washington's turbulent journey from the fields of a tobacco plantation to Independence Hall, explaining what it was that drove him to the battlefield and how he came to be one of the most respected men in American history. Turn to page 46 to learn more.

Elsewhere, discover the real-life roots of Britain's greatest legend – King Arthur. From the Roman general who led a bloody battle against the Anglo-Saxons, to the Celtic forts that inspired the mythical castle of Camelot, on page 70 we set out to show that there may be more to this legendary but elusive king than you first believed.

We also reveal what life was really like for people living in the Wild West on page 78, while over on page 54 you can learn how the Ancient Greeks changed the course of history. And in case you were wondering what your next read should be, we have four pages of book reviews starting on page 86.

We hope you have a very merry 2015.

Alicea

Alicea Francis

Issue 21 highlights

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Day in the life
Discover what an average day may have entailed for a Walt Disney animator living and working in Hollywood just as it was discovering the wonder of technicolour.

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Second Battle of Ypres
We commemorate 100 years since the first mass use of poison gas in WWI with a step-by-step account of the first mass use of poison gas in WWI with a step-by-step account of the tragic event as it unfolded on the fields of Flanders.

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What if?
Learn what might have happened had South Vietnam and its US allies won the Vietnam War, as we interview author and historian Dr Andrew Wiest.

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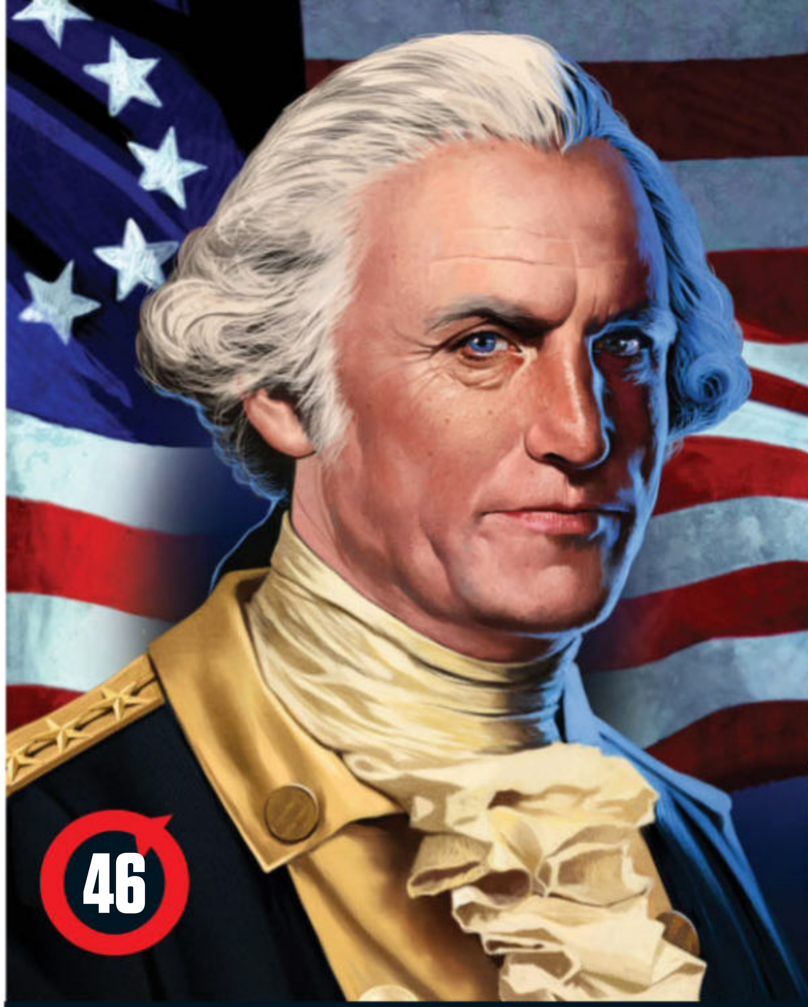

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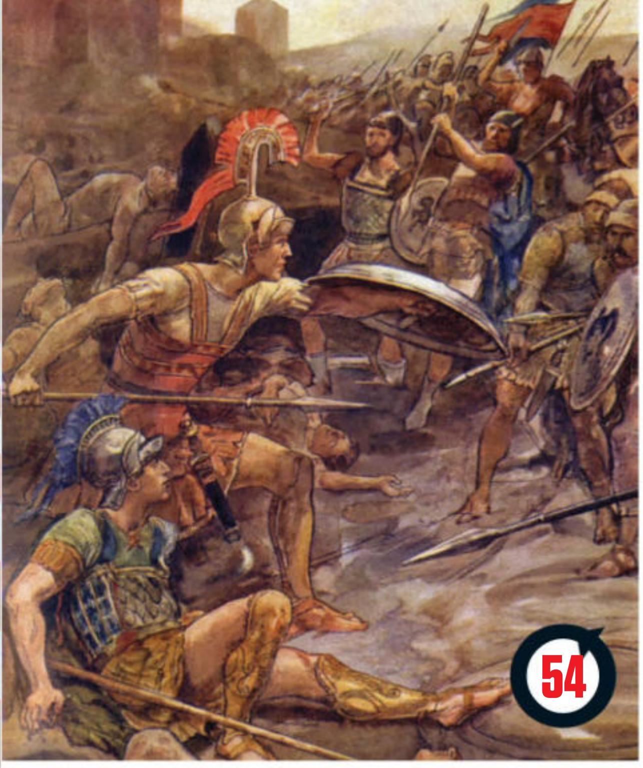

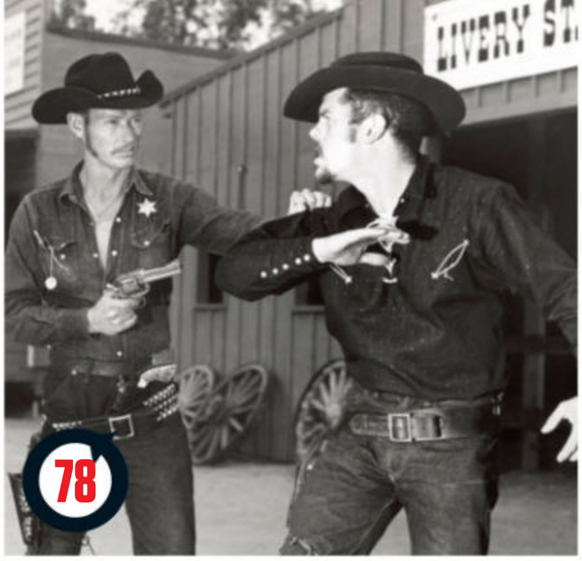
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CROMWELL
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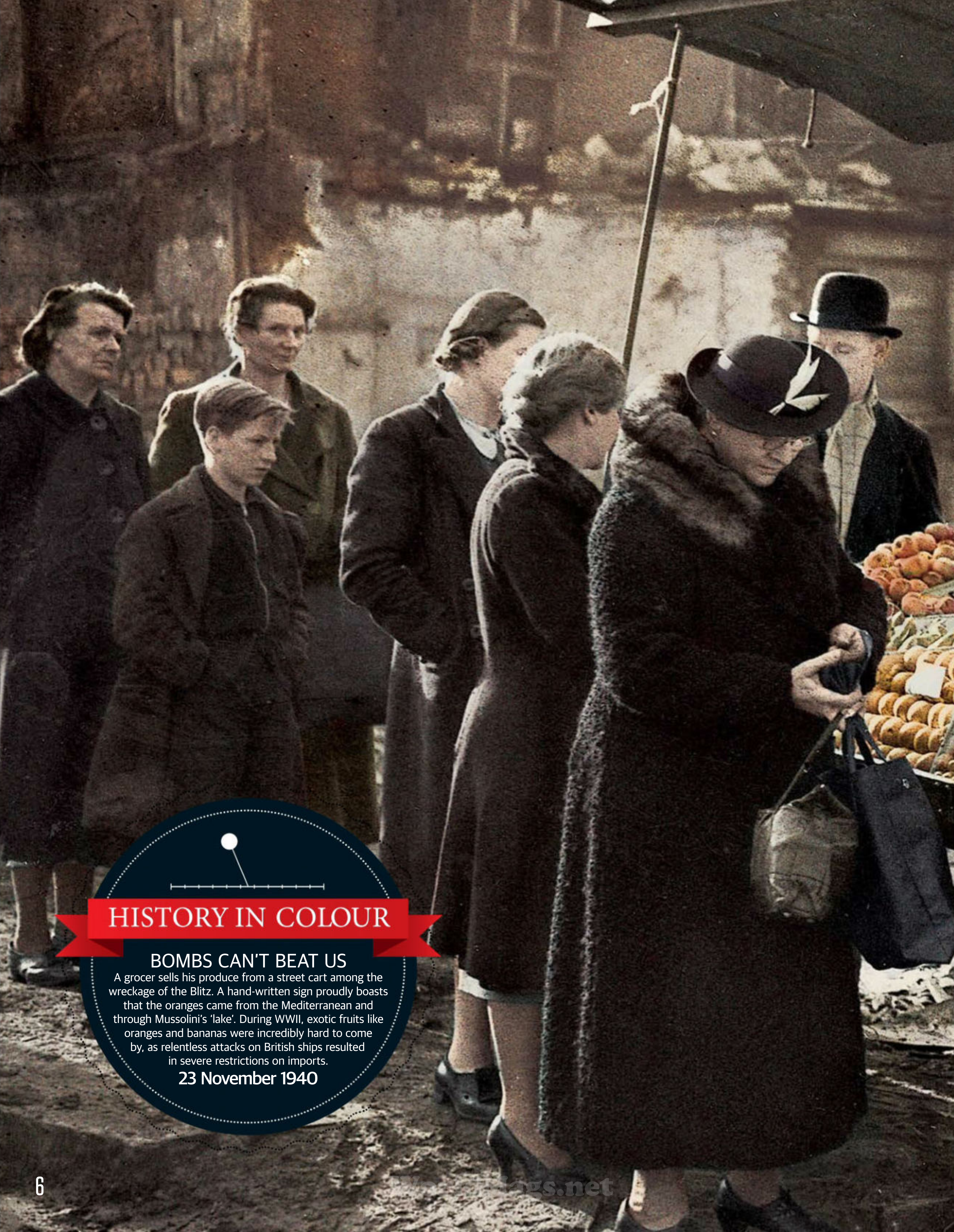
WASHINGTON
THE FIRST PRESIDENT

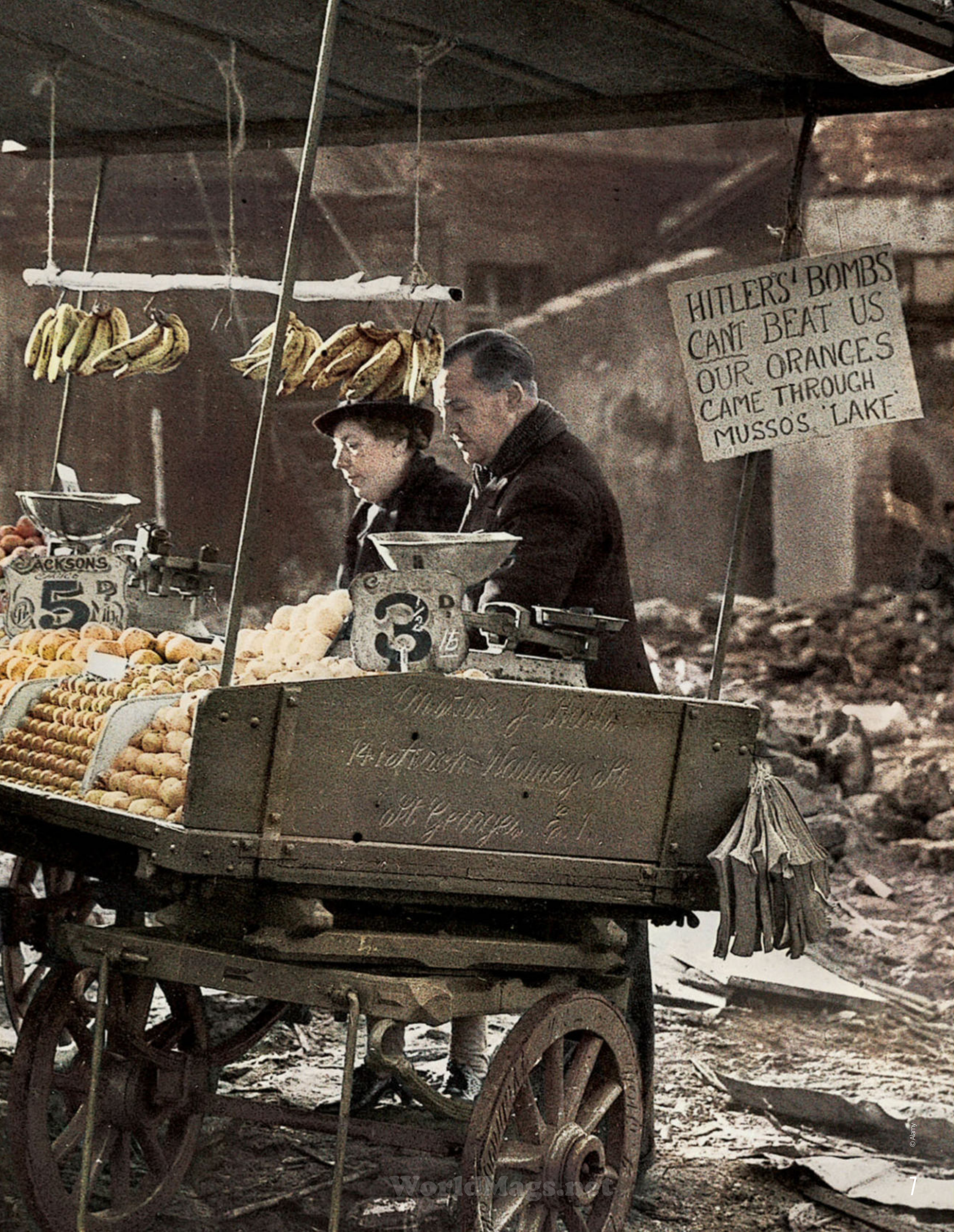


HISTORY IN COLOUR

BOMBS CAN'T BEAT US

A grocer sells his produce from a street cart among the wreckage of the Blitz. A hand-written sign proudly boasts that the oranges came from the Mediterranean and through Mussolini's 'lake'. During WWII, exotic fruits like oranges and bananas were incredibly hard to come by, as relentless attacks on British ships resulted in severe restrictions on imports.

23 November 1940


HITLER'S' BOMBS
CAN'T BEAT US
OUR ORANGES
CAME THROUGH
MUSSO'S 'LAKE'
JACKSONS
5D
3½D lb

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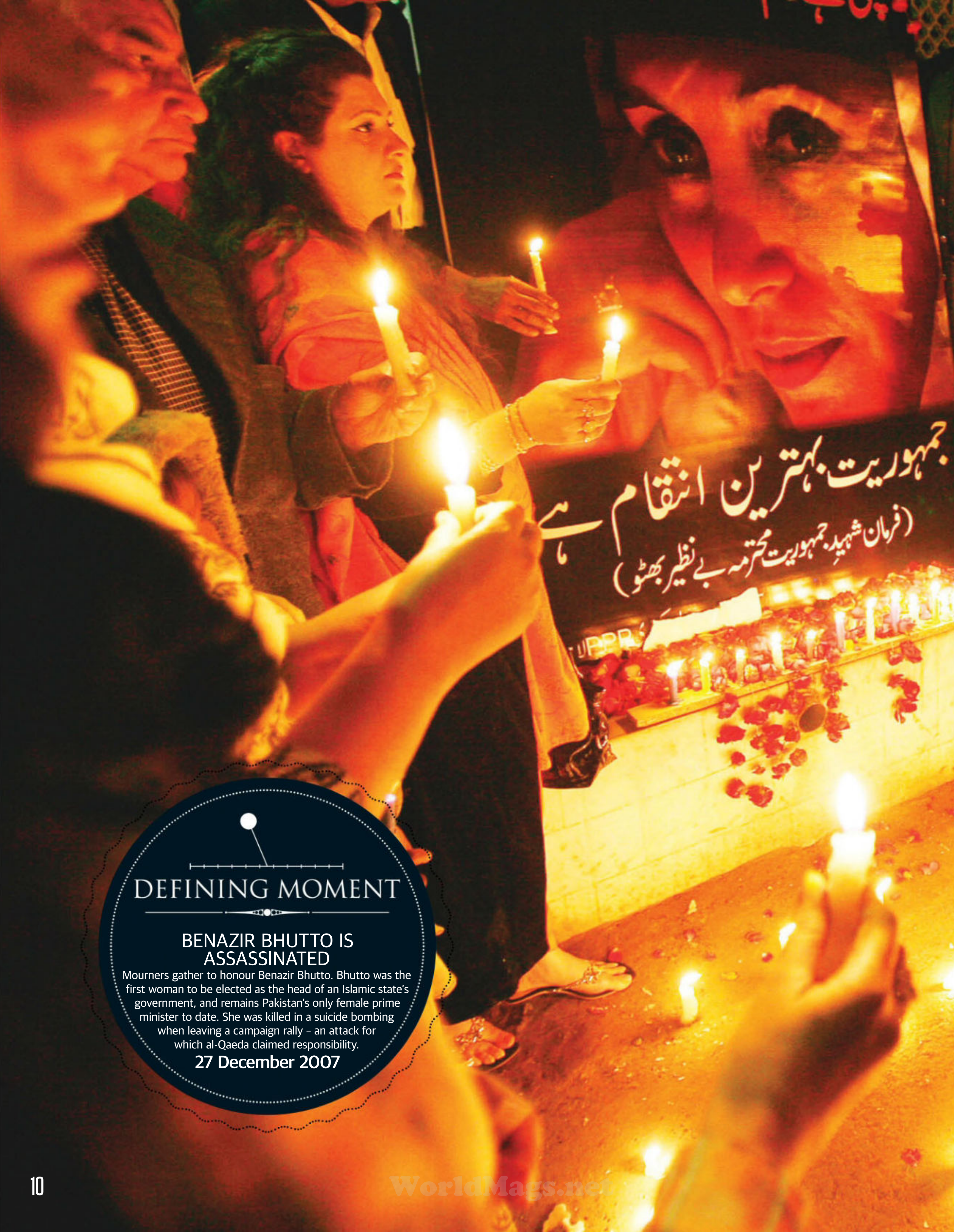
DEFINING MOMENT

JESSE OWENS WINS GOLD

American track-and-field athlete Jesse Owens participates in a long-jump event during the 1930s. Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics – a feat that was considered an act of defiance against the Nazi belief in the superiority of the Aryan race. Owens' long jump world record of 8.13m (26'8") remained unchallenged for 25 years.

August 1936

© Alamy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DEFINING MOMENT

BENAZIR BHUTTO IS ASSASSINATED

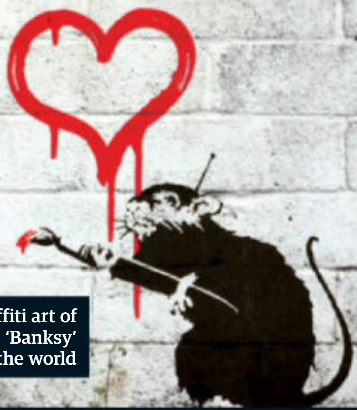
Mourners gather to honour Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto was the first woman to be elected as the head of an Islamic state's government, and remains Pakistan's only female prime minister to date. She was killed in a suicide bombing when leaving a campaign rally – an attack for which al-Qaeda claimed responsibility.

27 December 2007

© Corbis

Art

12 PAGES OF HISTORY IN PICTURES AND SCULPTURE

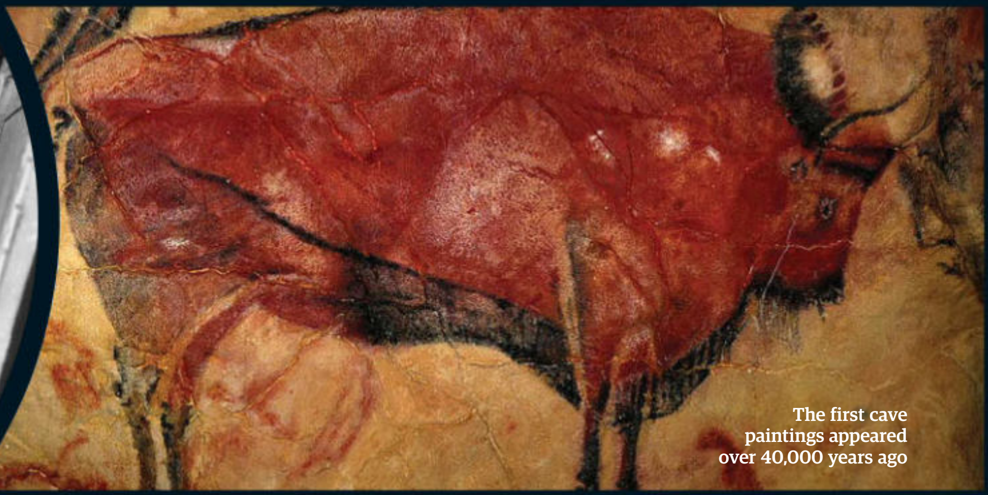


The satirical graffiti art of the mysterious 'Banksy' has captivated the world

Michelangelo's *David* has become a symbol of the Renaissance

Monet's flower garden at Giverny was the subject of his famous *Water Lilies*

US General Eisenhower inspects artwork stolen by the Nazis during their reign of terror



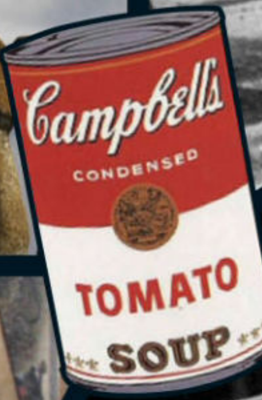
The first cave paintings appeared over 40,000 years ago

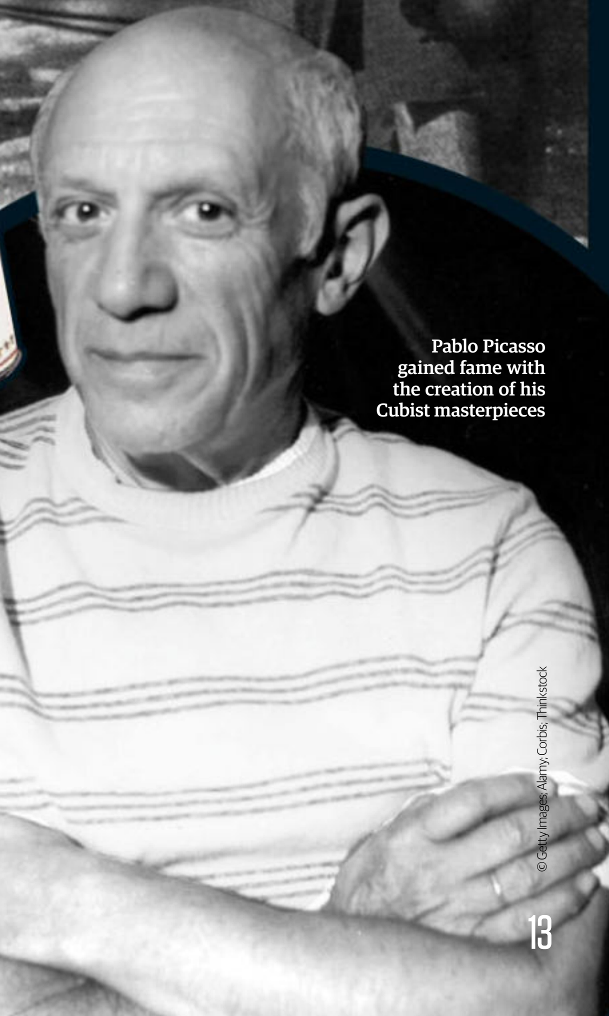
The Guggenheim Museum is one of the world's most admired works of architecture

BAL du MOULIN ROUGE
GRANDE FÊTE

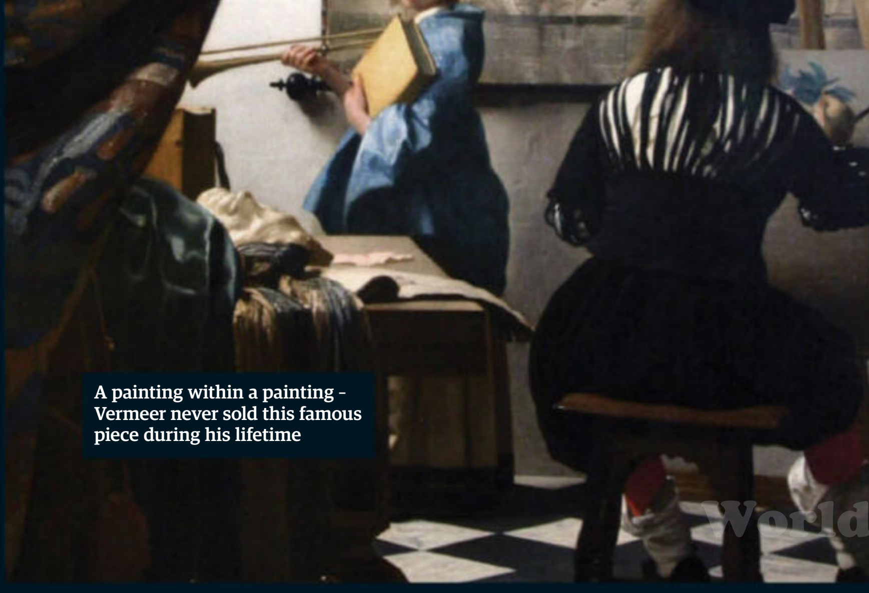
Toulouse Lautrec's Moulin Rouge posters kick-started a new age of visual advertising

These huge stone heads on Easter Island were built to honour the ancestors of the Rapa Nui people





Pablo Picasso gained fame with the creation of his Cubist masterpieces



A painting within a painting – Vermeer never sold this famous piece during his lifetime

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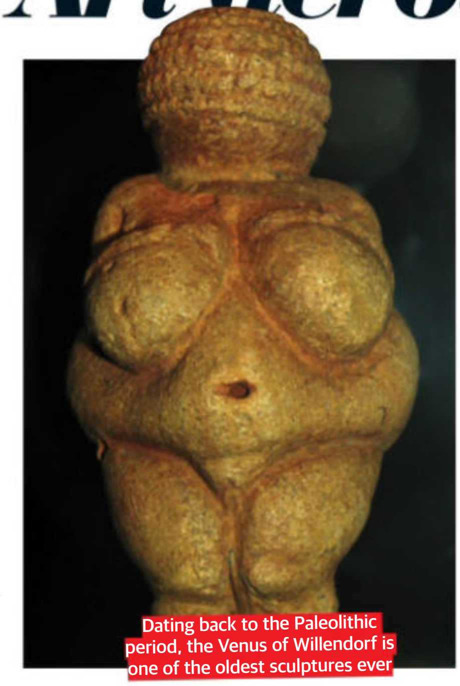
WorldMags

Art across history



Dating back to the Paleolithic period, the Venus of Willendorf is one of the oldest sculptures ever

VENUS OF WILLENDORF

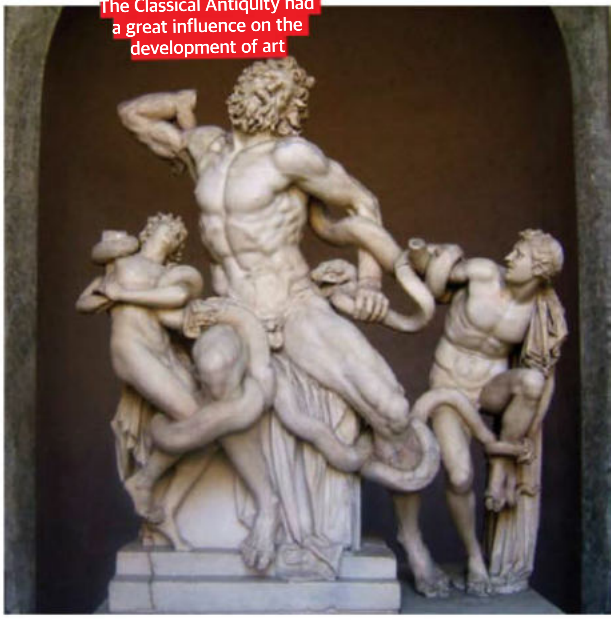
AUSTRIA 28000-25000 BCE

Discovered in the early-20th century, the Venus of Willendorf is named after the place in which it was found, with archaeologists estimating that the sculpture dates all the way back to 28000 to 25000 BCE, making it one of the oldest sculptures ever found. Due to its full figure with emphasis placed on the woman's childbearing areas, it's assumed that it was a fertility symbol, though this isn't entirely certain.

Hellenistic art

GREECE 323-30 BCE

There are few artworks that have captivated artists long after their creation, but Hellenistic art, such as *Laocoön And His Sons* and the *Venus De Milo*, have been a source of inspiration for centuries. Sadly the characters in *Laocoön And His Sons* are missing a few limbs, and upon its discovery in Rome in 1506 the Pope's architect, Bramante, held a contest for sculptors to recreate the missing appendages. Ultimately, however, these added limbs were removed.



The Classical Antiquity had a great influence on the development of art

Art timeline

Venus of Willendorf
In 1908 archaeologists discovered this sculpture of a woman, dating from the Paleolithic period.
28000-25000 BCE

Get her to the Greek
Art thrives in Ancient Greece. This creative period will provide great inspiration for the Renaissance centuries later.
130-100 BCE

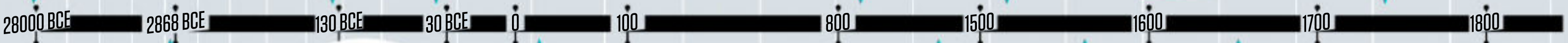
I smell a snake
Copied from the Ancient Greeks, the Romans re-create *Laocoön And His Sons*. Art from the Ancient Greek and Roman times is known as the Classical Antiquity.
27 BCE-68 CE

The Alhambra
While it is first built in the 9th century, the Alhambra was continually renovated over the centuries.
9th century

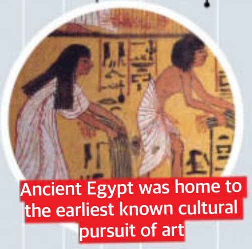
Belvedere torso
Anonymous for centuries, the Belvedere torso makes its way into the Vatican's collection.
16th century

It's thought the Belvedere torso originates from the Antiquity

Back to basics
Often considered a mad genius, Messerschmidt's sculptures perfectly show the transition from the excessive Baroque to simplistic Neoclassicism.
1736-1783



Egypt's Old Kingdom
Art flourishes in Ancient Egypt, and the 4th dynasty is considered to be the peak of its cultural creativity.
2868-2181 BCE



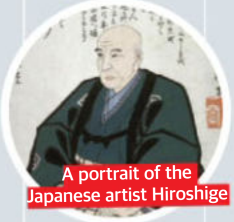
Ancient Egypt was home to the earliest known cultural pursuit of art

Rome wasn't built in a day
During the Classical Antiquity, Rome's Colosseum and the Pantheon are built.
70-125 CE

Art is reborn
Considered the 'rebirth' of art, the Renaissance sees artists referring back to the Antiquity for creative inspiration.
15th-17th century

Bigger is better
Baroque art takes the understated elegance of the Renaissance and pushes it to its ornamental limits.
16th-17th century

Edo period
As Western art develops a more ornate, stylised look, the Edo period in Japan sees artists like Hiroshige and Hokusai flourish.
17th-19th century



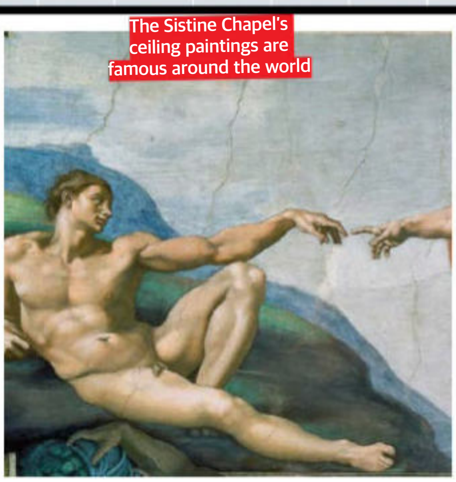
A portrait of the Japanese artist Hiroshige

The Moorish palace at Alhambra features intricate arcades and mosaics

Alhambra palace

SPAIN 9TH CENTURY

Beginning life as a Moorish fortress in the 9th century, the Alhambra soon fell into disrepair. Upon its renovation in the 11th century, however, it was considered one of the architectural wonders of the world, and even today its magnificence is hard to beat. In 1492 the Alhambra was claimed by Christians when Catholic rulers Ferdinand and Isabel conquered Grenada.



The Sistine Chapel's ceiling paintings are famous around the world

Sistine Chapel

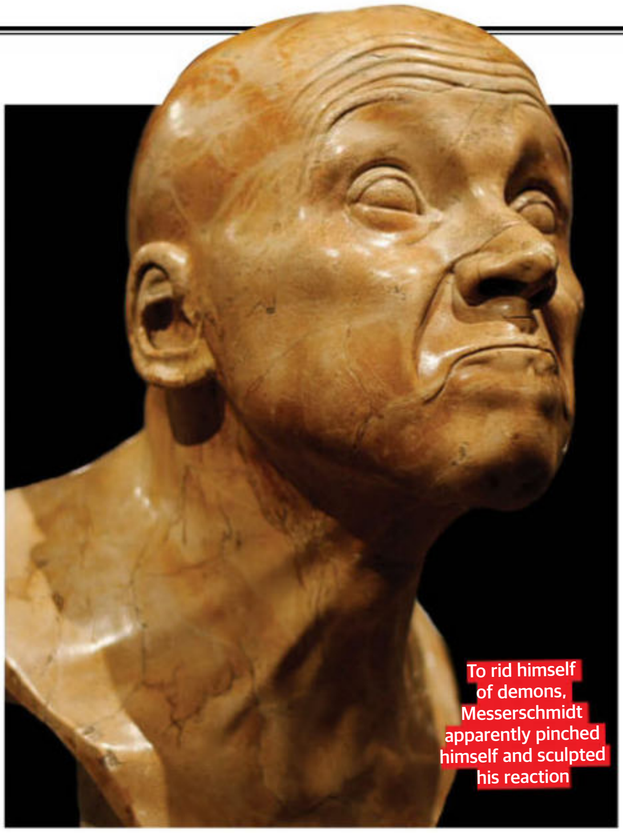
ITALY 1508-1512

The Sistine Chapel is home to the ceiling paintings of Renaissance artist Michelangelo. Painted between 1508-1512, he was influenced by the Belvedere torso - in the *The Creation Of Adam*, the Belvedere torso was re-created as Adam's body. Despite the ceiling's status in the canon of art, Michelangelo was known to despise it. In fact, he resented working on it so much that he included a miserable-looking self-portrait in a separate commission for the Chapel, entitled *The Last Judgement*.

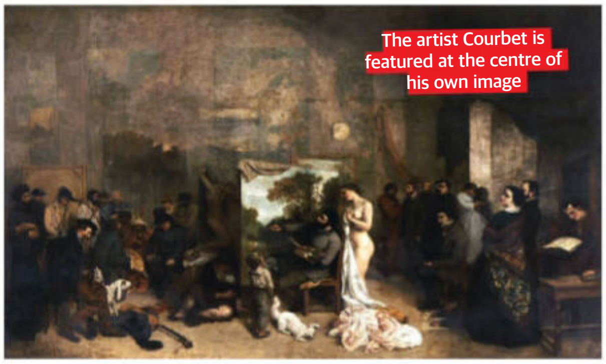
MESSERSCHMIDT

AUSTRIA 1736-1783

When it comes to the subject of mad artists, Franz Xaver Messerschmidt has long been considered about as looney as you can possibly get. According to a contemporary of his, he suffered from delusions of a visiting demon that taunted and crippled him because he understood too much about proportion. To banish these demons, he sculpted a series of busts known as character heads. While the validity of this extraordinary story is definitely arguable, one certainty is that Messerschmidt was one of the foremost pioneers of the swift development from Baroque to Neoclassical art during the late-18th century.



To rid himself of demons, Messerschmidt apparently pinched himself and sculpted his reaction



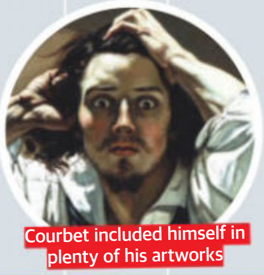
The artist Courbet is featured at the centre of his own image

Man in the mirror

FRANCE 1853

What would any artist be without the occasional self-portrait? French painter Gustave Courbet probably wouldn't hold his esteemed place in the canon of art if it weren't for his selfies. In 1855 Courbet painted a work entitled *The Painter's Studio*, featuring himself in the centre sat at a canvas. The artist is surrounded by admiring gazes, from the woman stood naked at Courbet's back and the adoring stare of a young child to the respectful glances of the men either side of the canvas. While there are plenty of interpretations of the artwork, its humorous nature is typical of Courbet's confident style.

Keep it real
Gustave Courbet, the father of the Realist movement, perfects the 19th-century self-portrait.
1819-1877



Courbet included himself in plenty of his artworks

The Scream
The four infamous artworks by Edvard Munch are created in oil, pastel, tempura and as a lithography respectively.
1893

Dalí's masterpiece
After his surrealist film *Un Chien Andalucia* in 1929, Salvador Dalí paints *The Persistence Of Memory*, perhaps his most famous work.
1931

The art of war
Lee Miller, May Ray's muse and model, turns her hand to war photography, capturing emotive shots of killed soldiers in WWII.
1939-1945

Make it pop
With the rapid development of society after the wars, art takes a radically exciting turn toward pop art.
1950s-'60s

Roy Lichtenstein is one of the world's most respected and enduring pop artists

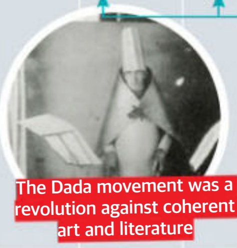
Banksy
Anonymous graffiti artist Banksy creates provocative and political spray-paint masterpieces in cities around the world.
1992-now

1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
2014

Impressionism
Painting becomes more evocative and brush strokes become looser when deviant artists of the era turn to Impressionism.
1870s-'80s

A new world
British art in particular is heavily influenced by the impact of WWI.
1914-1918

Anti-art reaction
As a reaction to the war and politics, a group known as the Dadaists revolts visually, declaring themselves anti-art.
1916-1923



The Dada movement was a revolution against coherent art and literature

The naked truth
One of the most iconic modern artists, Lucian Freud, paints explorative nudes in unflattering honesty.
1951-2011

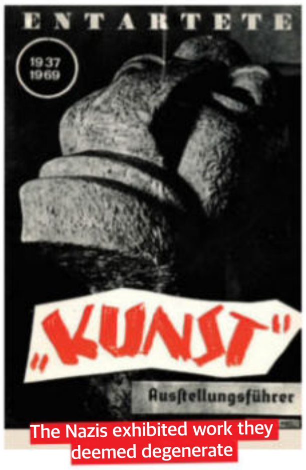
David Hockney
British-born artist David Hockney has produced hundreds of works of art, including a famous series of water studies.
1960s-now

Art for art's sake
Audiences are left scratching their heads after Damien Hirst unveils his diamond-encrusted skull entitled *For The Love Of God*.
2011

Impressionism

FRANCE 1870S

Impressionism was ridiculed and despised by traditional art movements of the time. Artists strove to capture a single moment in time in their art. Featuring underrated artists like Monet, Degas and Renoir, the movement was also one of the first to actively acknowledge female artists within the genre. Mary Cassatt and Berthe Morisot were two of the most respected artists of the Impressionist movement.

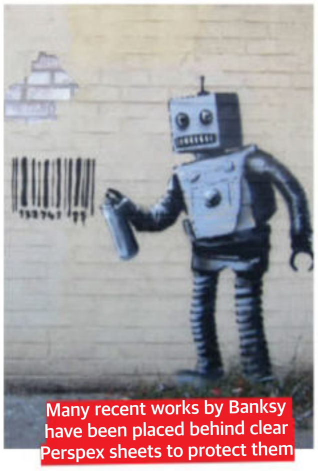


The Nazis exhibited work they deemed degenerate

Degenerate art

GERMANY 1937

WWI was the driving force behind many artistic movements in Europe, from the Dada movement to Surrealism and Expressionism. Such provocative art was considered revolutionary and Hitler knew its power. In an attempt to purify German art, he held an exhibition in Munich named 'Degenerate Art' that was meant to show the decay of culture.



Many recent works by Banksy have been placed behind clear Perspex sheets to protect them

Face the wall

INTERNATIONAL 1992-NOW

Anonymous graffiti artist Banksy is no stranger to controversy. What's usually considered vandalism Banksy has turned into an admired art form, but not without its share of criticism. Graffiti is illegal, and yet Banksy's provocative art seems to stand above this, with many stating that Banksy's work should be protected both physically and legally.

© Alamy

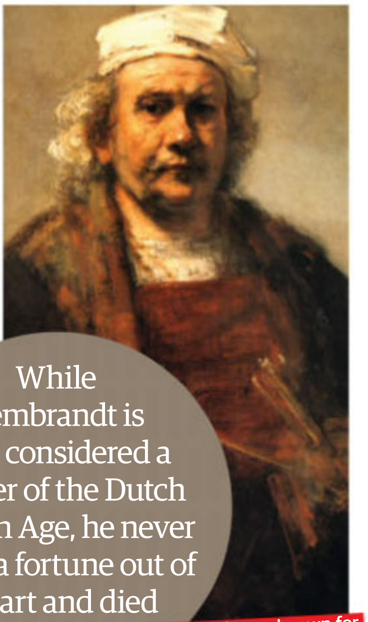
Hall of Fame
GREAT ARTISTS

From Rembrandt's sultry self-portraits to Duchamp's upturned urinal, influential art takes many forms. Take a look at artists that changed the course of art history

Rembrandt van Rijn

DUTCH 1606-1669

Undoubtedly the most famous Dutch artist of the Baroque, Rembrandt became a master of depicting light and shade, known as chiaroscuro, in his portraits and landscape paintings. What he is best known for, however, are the dozens of brutally honest and unscrupulous self-portraits that he produced throughout his lifetime. From simple sketches and etchings of expression to impressive mastery of the painted canvas, Rembrandt's self-portraits have captivated viewers for centuries. Whether it's the simple intimacy of seeing an artist, or the analytical gaze, Rembrandt's selfies set a precedent for portraiture that artists such as Joshua Reynolds, Francis Bacon and even Pablo Picasso couldn't ignore.



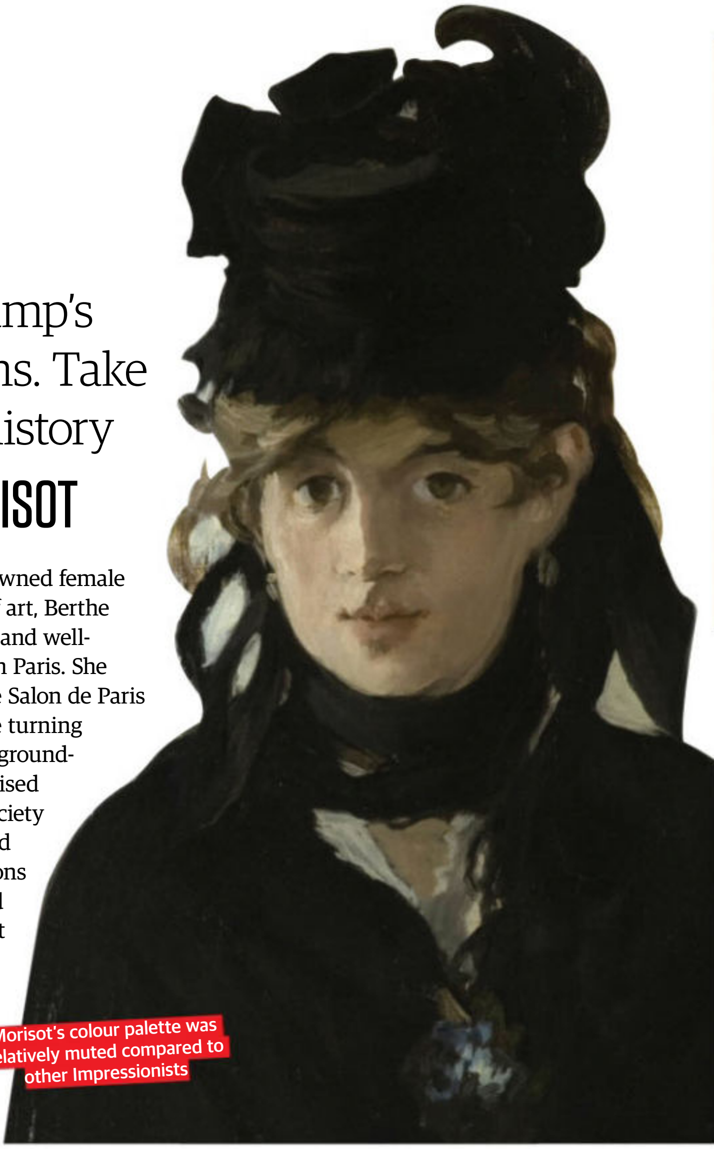
> While Rembrandt is now considered a master of the Dutch Golden Age, he never made a fortune out of his art and died poor

Rembrandt was known for using chiaroscuro to great effect in his work

BERTHE MORISOT

FRENCH 1841-1894

One of only a few renowned female artists in the history of art, Berthe Morisot was a popular and well-regarded artist based in Paris. She exhibited her art at the Salon de Paris for several years before turning to impressionism. Her ground-breaking work emphasised the woman's role in society and appealed to a broad audience, with depictions of current fashions and trends that reached out to a female audience that had previously been overshadowed and neglected by a male-dominated spectatorship.

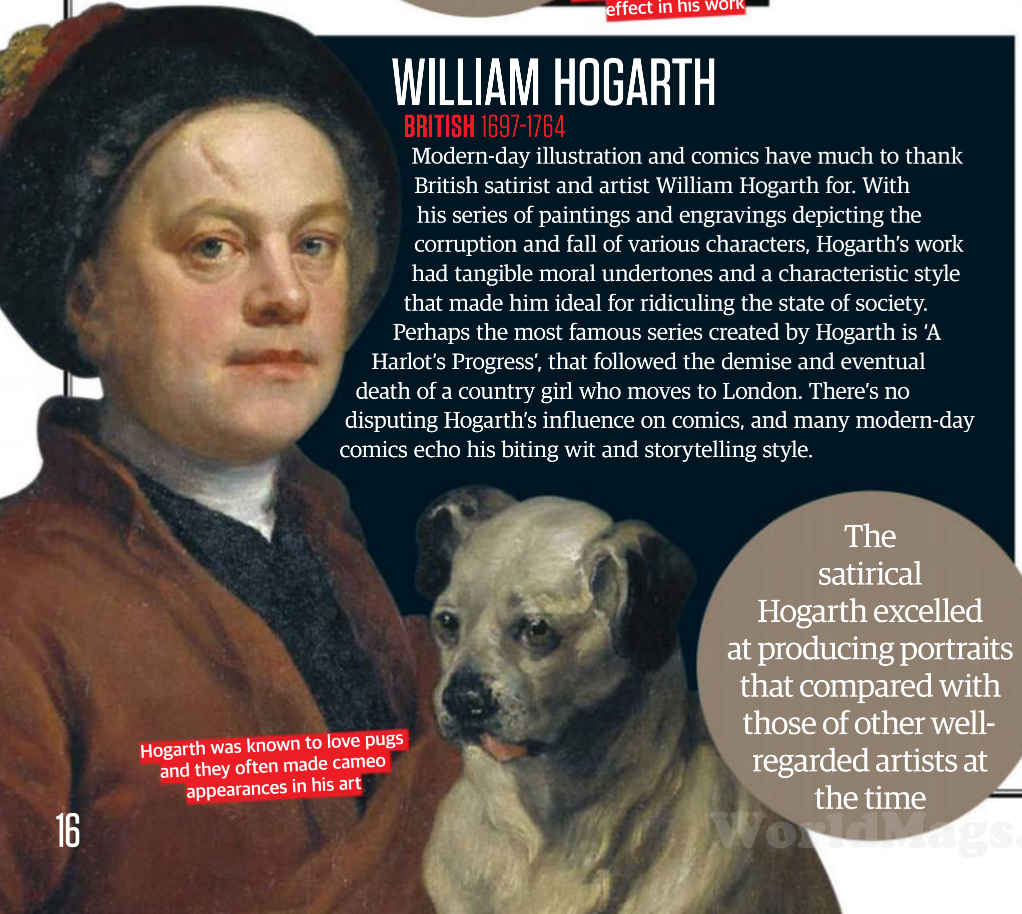


Morisot's colour palette was relatively muted compared to other Impressionists

WILLIAM HOGARTH

BRITISH 1697-1764

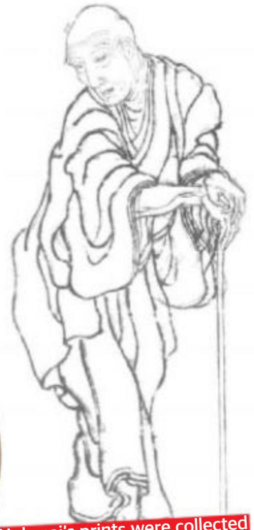
Modern-day illustration and comics have much to thank British satirist and artist William Hogarth for. With his series of paintings and engravings depicting the corruption and fall of various characters, Hogarth's work had tangible moral undertones and a characteristic style that made him ideal for ridiculing the state of society. Perhaps the most famous series created by Hogarth is 'A Harlot's Progress', that followed the demise and eventual death of a country girl who moves to London. There's no disputing Hogarth's influence on comics, and many modern-day comics echo his biting wit and storytelling style.



> The satirical Hogarth excelled at producing portraits that compared with those of other well-regarded artists at the time

Hogarth was known to love pugs and they often made cameo appearances in his art

> "Everything alters me, but nothing changes me" ***Salvador Dalí***



Hokusai's prints were collected by many Western artists like Vincent Van Gogh

Katsusika Hokusai

JAPANESE 1760-1849

Heavily inspiring the later work of artists ranging from Rodin to Van Gogh, the Japanese Hokusai's ukiyo-e style of art was revered and widely admired centuries after he lived, and still provides inspiration today. However, it was his series of work entitled '36 Views Of Mount Fuji' that made him an internationally renowned artist. As the title suggests, Hokusai created 36 prints that all depicted different views of Mount Fuji, the most famous of which is entitled *Great Wave Off Kanagawa*. Hokusai's prints emphasised the beauty and simplicity of nature at a time when Western art was embracing the excess of Baroque and Rococo art.

Credited to R Mutt, Duchamp submitted his work to the Society of Independent Artists under a pseudonym

MARCEL DUCHAMP

FRENCH 1887-1968

One of the most controversial works of art ever, Duchamp's upended urinal, known as *Fountain*, was submitted under the pseudonym of R Mutt to the 1917 exhibition for the Society of Independent Artists. It was rejected, and Duchamp, who was a member of the board, resigned in protest. But the story didn't end there. Duchamp's 'ready-made' set the wheels of controversy in motion and for the first time, people began to debate the definition of art. Duchamp argued that art was conceptual and that the idea was original and deserving of artistic merit.

The *Fountain* went missing after it was rejected by the Society of Independent Artists – it's thought it was thrown in the bin

> "I don't believe in art. I believe in artists"
>
> *Marcel Duchamp*

TRACEY EMIN

BRITISH 1963-PRESENT

In 1999 Tracey Emin's work *My Bed* questioned how audiences interact with an artist's work. When Emin's work was exhibited at the Tate in London, two performance artists – collectively known as Mad For Real – leapt onto the bed and had a pillow fight. In the same way that Duchamp's *Fountain* questioned the definition of art, Emin's work pushed this further, prompting ideas of how audiences should connect with art.

The controversial *My Bed* was covered in stains and litter

Art and culture blossomed in the 4th dynasty in Ancient Egypt

Khafre

EGYPTIAN CA 2575 BCE-CA 2480 BCE

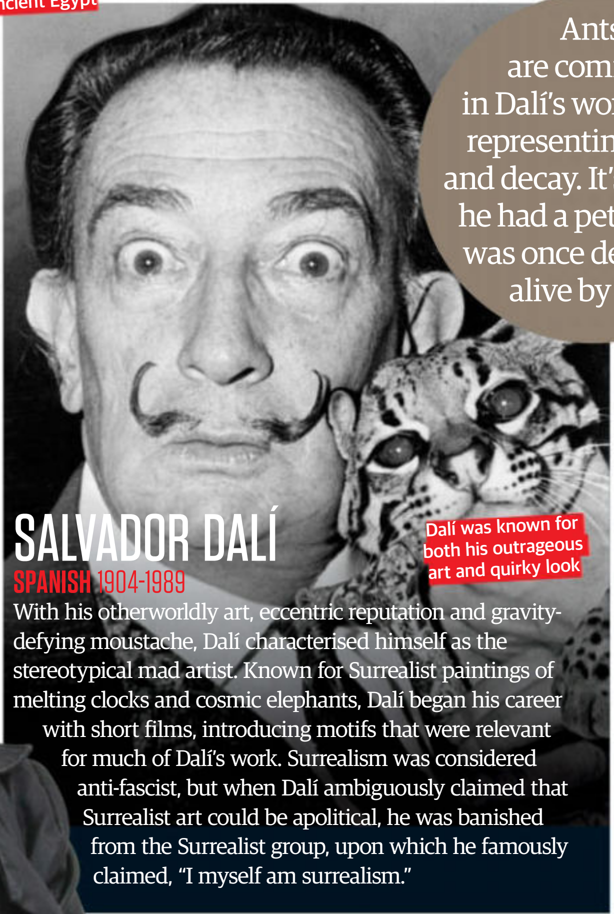
It's not entirely certain, but it's thought the Great Sphinx of Giza originated from the time of Khafre's rule. Khafre may not have been an artist or architect himself, but he was a great patron, and under his reign art and culture flourished in Ancient Egypt. Not much is known about Khafre's life or his rule – it's not even known how long he ruled for!

Kahlo's most frequently used subject was herself

FRIDA KAHLO

MEXICAN 1907-1954

Self-portraits in art are almost as common as the smartphone selfie today, and Frida Kahlo certainly wasn't canvas-shy. Producing over 50 self-portraits, she explained that as she was often alone, she herself was her best-known subject. After an accident during her youth, Kahlo was plagued with health problems. While her artistic career was successful, at the time she didn't receive the same kind of reception that her husband, fellow artist Diego Rivera, enjoyed.



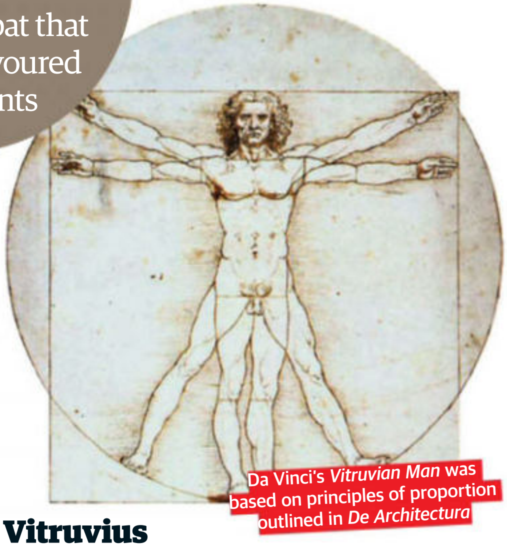
Dalí was known for both his outrageous art and quirky look

Ants are common in Dalí's work, often representing death and decay. It's claimed he had a pet bat that was once devoured alive by ants

SALVADOR DALÍ

SPANISH 1904-1989

With his otherworldly art, eccentric reputation and gravity-defying moustache, Dalí characterised himself as the stereotypical mad artist. Known for Surrealist paintings of melting clocks and cosmic elephants, Dalí began his career with short films, introducing motifs that were relevant for much of Dalí's work. Surrealism was considered anti-fascist, but when Dalí ambiguously claimed that Surrealist art could be apolitical, he was banished from the Surrealist group, upon which he famously claimed, "I myself am surrealism."



Da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man* was based on principles of proportion outlined in *De Architectura*

Vitruvius

ROMAN 80-70 BCE - CA 15 BCE

Roman architect and engineer Vitruvius's definitive guide to classical architecture, *De Architectura* – now known as *The Ten Books Of Architecture* – shaped the course of art. From explaining the science and mathematics behind functional buildings to exploring the significance of proportion, Vitruvius's work inspired the style of Renaissance and Baroque art.

© Alamy, Getty Images

Day in the life

A DISNEY ANIMATOR

WORKING TIRELESSLY TO BRING COLOUR TO A BLACK-AND-WHITE WORLD, THE UNITED STATES, 1930S-1940S

In 1928 a young cartoonist named Walt Disney released an animated short called *Steamboat Willie*, featuring a cheeky cartoon mouse, and it took the world by storm. This foray into sound cartoon movies began the period now known as the golden age of American animation. Disney took dominance of this new world with vivid colours, engaging stories and iconic characters, releasing multiple titles every year. This inspired many young men and women to become animators. Little did the cartoon-loving population know that these animators were working tirelessly 12 hours a day, seven days a week, for minuscule salaries.

GET TO THE STUDIO ON TIME

During the most pressing periods, such as in the run-up to the first full-length feature, *Snow White*, animators and painters would rise as early as 4.30am to begin their shifts. Walt ran a very tight ship, and at exactly 9am the pen to sign in would be changed from black to red. Many animators secretly signed their coworkers in to help them avoid punishment.

Disney Studios has held life-drawing classes for over 80 years

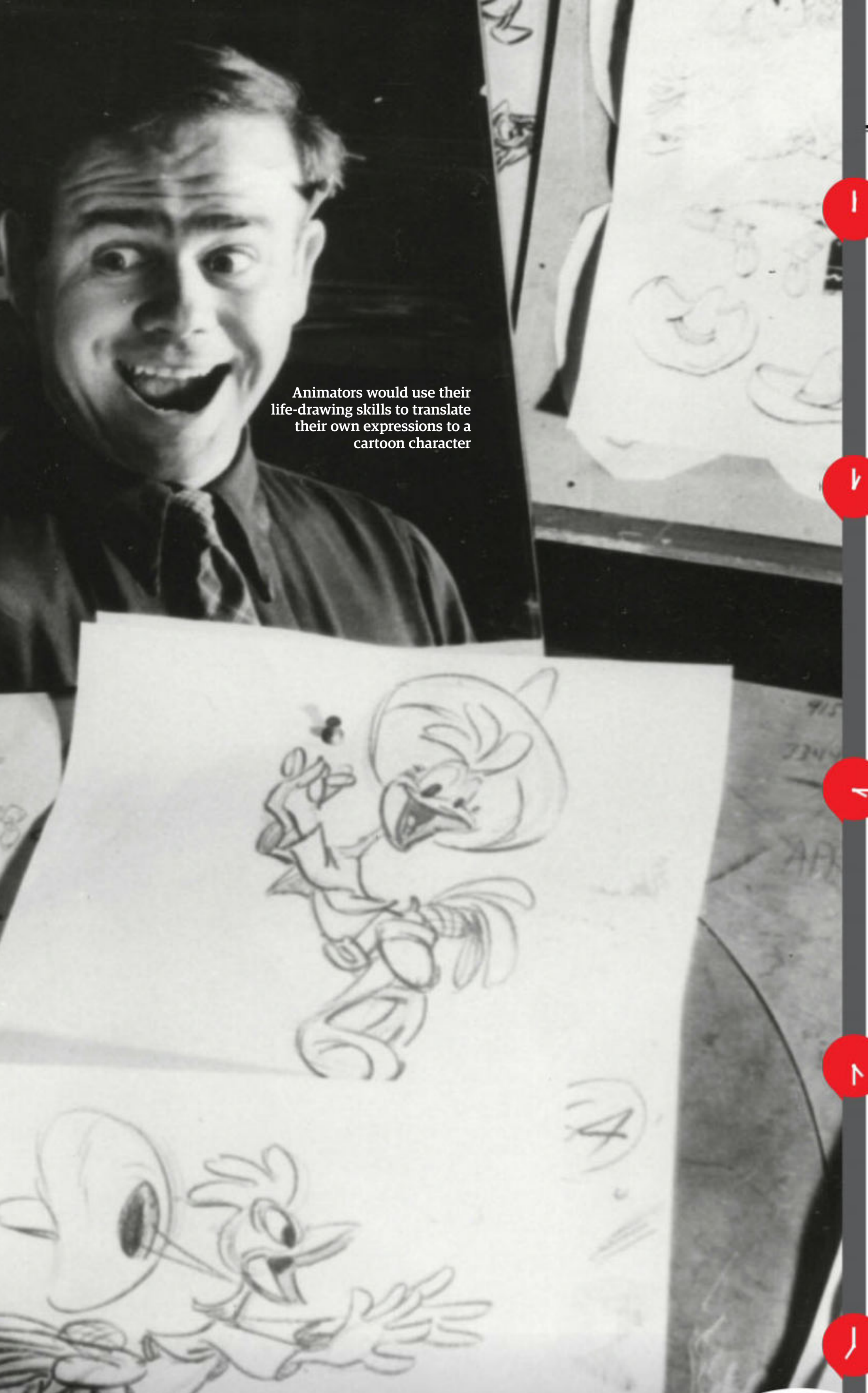
EXTENSIVE TRAINING

All new animators, no matter how gifted, had to go through extensive training to ensure they could animate the correct 'Disney' way. Groups of ten to 12 new animators would be supervised by senior animators, and the newbies would usually be given a scene to draw, receiving advice as they worked. New animators often found themselves overloaded with work to ensure Disney achieved the maximum output needed for its productions.

LIFE-DRAWING CLASSES

One of the cornerstones of Disney's animator training was free life-drawing classes. These classes included not only new recruits but seasoned staff members who had worked for the company for years. These classes were run by Art Babbit, creator of the character Goofy, with the premise that a grasp of the basics of human anatomy would allow the animators to extend their skills into the fantastical.

> "Walt ran a very tight ship, and at exactly 9am the pen to sign in would be changed from black to red"



Animators would use their life-drawing skills to translate their own expressions to a cartoon character

LUNCH

A top animator could be paid $200 a week while a cel painter scraped by on $12. With everyone putting in 12-hour days seven days a week, some of the new recruits could barely afford to eat. There were cases of men living on turnips and bruised fruit and passing out from malnutrition. After this Walt agreed to up their wage to $18 a week so they could eat at a greasy spoon across the street with the other employees.

START DRAWING

Most of the animators' days would be spent at their desk drawing. The dialogue would be recorded first and the animators would use it to make rough, messy sketches of the characters. People known as 'inbetweeners' would finish the scenes and fill in the gaps. Once finished the scenes would be copied onto cels by inkers, which would in turn be painted and a background added. All these elements were combined and the film would be photographed and put together.

LEARN FROM COWORKERS

Disney's animation studios were a breeding ground for imagination and creativity, and one of the most valuable aspects of working there was the opportunity to learn and converse with a host of talented artists. Walt too was keen to utilise the skills of his seasoned animators, and often organised talks, lectures and classes where the animators could swap ideas and further develop their skills.

PLAY SOFTBALL WITH WALT

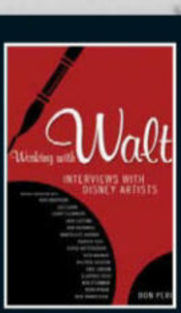
In the early days of Walt Disney Studios, Walt was keen for his staff to be treated like one big family. He would organise company softball games that involved all the employees, including himself, insisting all his staff call him 'Uncle Walt.' However, many employees were not as comfortable with him as he wished, as after the success of *Snow White* he became incredibly controlling and wouldn't hesitate to fire anyone who crossed him.

GO ON STRIKE

On 29 May 1941 many Disney animators went on strike. The animators found Walt's seemingly random method of awarding bonuses infuriating, and were frustrated that they were seeing none of the profits of the studio's successful movies. The most pressing issue, however, was that of anonymity, with many artists demanding screen credit for their work. Walt saw the strike as a major personal betrayal, and after it ended on 29 July the company transformed from a big family into a corporate business.

How do we know this?

After the 1941 strike many animators were willing to speak about their working conditions. *Working With Walt* features enlightening interviews with a host of Disney animators such as Ken Anderson, Les Clark and many more. To discover more about the development and growing popularity of animation during the era, *Hollywood Cartoons: American Animation In Its Golden Age* describes how this development affected the working life of Disney animators.



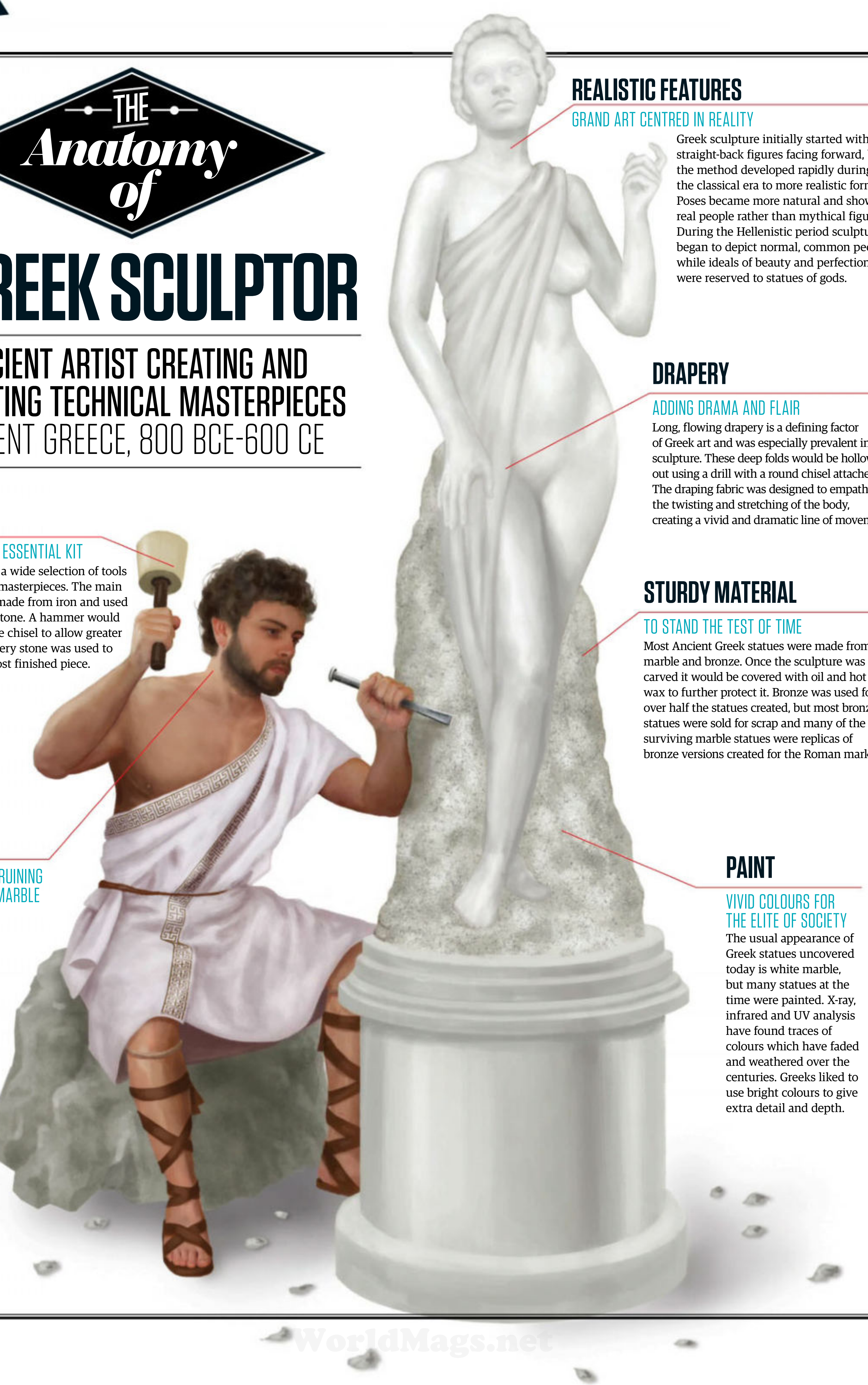
In 1942, Disney produced an animated short that encouraged people to pay their income tax

© Corbis; Rex Feature

THE *Anatomy of* A GREEK SCULPTOR

ANCIENT ARTIST CREATING AND SCULPTING TECHNICAL MASTERPIECES

ANCIENT GREECE, 800 BCE-600 CE



TOOLS

EVERY SCULPTOR'S ESSENTIAL KIT

Sculptors would use a wide selection of tools while creating their masterpieces. The main tool was the chisel, made from iron and used to chip away at the stone. A hammer would also be used with the chisel to allow greater control, while an emery stone was used to smooth out the almost finished piece.

SKILL

DEVELOPED AFTER RUINING MANY BLOCKS OF MARBLE

It took great skill and training to become a successful sculptor. Many artists were mentored and became apprentices to celebrated sculptors, while others, such as Lysippos, Alexander the Great's sculptor, taught themselves from an early age. Sculptors had to have a skilled eye as they didn't create each part one at a time, but instead worked around the figure stage by stage.

REALISTIC FEATURES

GRAND ART CENTRED IN REALITY

Greek sculpture initially started with straight-back figures facing forward, but the method developed rapidly during the classical era to more realistic forms. Poses became more natural and showed real people rather than mythical figures. During the Hellenistic period sculpture began to depict normal, common people, while ideals of beauty and perfection were reserved to statues of gods.

DRAPERY

ADDING DRAMA AND FLAIR

Long, flowing drapery is a defining factor of Greek art and was especially prevalent in sculpture. These deep folds would be hollowed out using a drill with a round chisel attached. The draping fabric was designed to empathise the twisting and stretching of the body, creating a vivid and dramatic line of movement.

STURDY MATERIAL

TO STAND THE TEST OF TIME

Most Ancient Greek statues were made from marble and bronze. Once the sculpture was carved it would be covered with oil and hot wax to further protect it. Bronze was used for over half the statues created, but most bronze statues were sold for scrap and many of the surviving marble statues were replicas of bronze versions created for the Roman market.

PAINT

VIVID COLOURS FOR THE ELITE OF SOCIETY

The usual appearance of Greek statues uncovered today is white marble, but many statues at the time were painted. X-ray, infrared and UV analysis have found traces of colours which have faded and weathered over the centuries. Greeks liked to use bright colours to give extra detail and depth.

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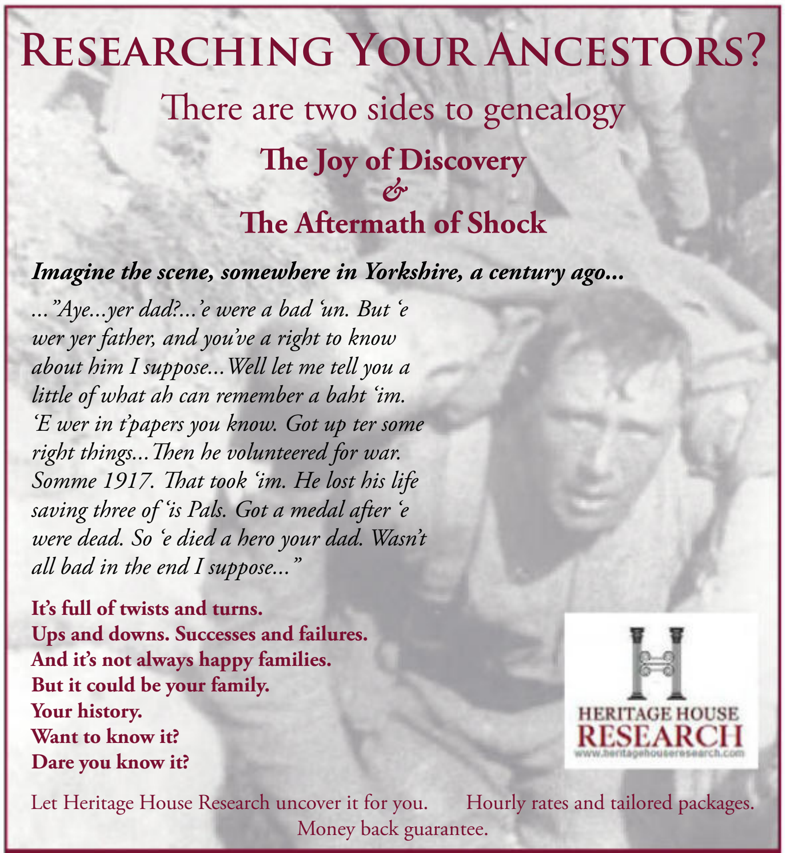

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PEARSON

How to BECOME A FAMOUS POP ARTIST

BECOME A HERO OF THE BRASH CULTURAL PHENOMENON, USA & EUROPE, 1950S-1960S

WARHOL'S STAR SUBJECTS

MARILYN MONROE
1962
Following her death, Warhol made over 20 faded silkscreen paintings of Monroe all based on the same photograph.

EDIE SEDGWICK
1965
For Warhol, nobody represented beauty in the way Sedgwick did. He cast her in several of his films and called her "the queen of The Factory."

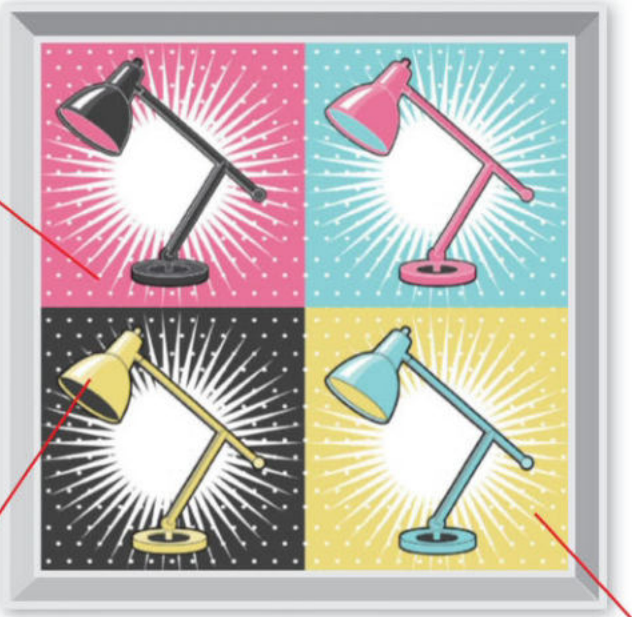
MICK JAGGER
1975
Jagger was the subject of ten of Warhol's screenprints, based on photos he had taken himself. Warhol also designed one of the Rolling Stones' album covers.

MAO
1977
Warhol was fascinated with the political situation in 1970s China, famously stating, "They don't believe in creativity. The only picture they have is of Mao."

EINSTEIN
1980
Part of his most controversial series, *Ten Portraits Of Jews Of The Twentieth Century*, critics argued Warhol's image of Einstein was "cold and unrevealing."

Bold colours, loud cartoon-like spreads and famous faces, the words 'pop art' immediately conjure up strong, powerful images. After World War II the Western world experienced an era of growing political and economic stability, and from this burst the age of retail and excess. Pop art was more than paintings on a wall; it was a lifestyle, born in bustling cities straining at the seams with commercialism. It was the most publicly accessible art form yet, blurring the lines of elitist art and celebrating the ordinary. Those who managed to capture and express the electricity of the era found themselves elevated to fame and fortune.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POP ART



Bold colours
Typified by bright, bold colours intended to grab attention, nothing about this art style is subtle.

Celebrating the ordinary
Taking normal objects and turning them into art, such as Andy Warhol's famous Campbell's Soup can, was very popular during the era.

Comic-book style
Roy Lichtenstein lifted some of his pieces straight out of pages of comic books with hard edges and use of halftone - continuous dots that create a gradient in the image.

01 Study hard

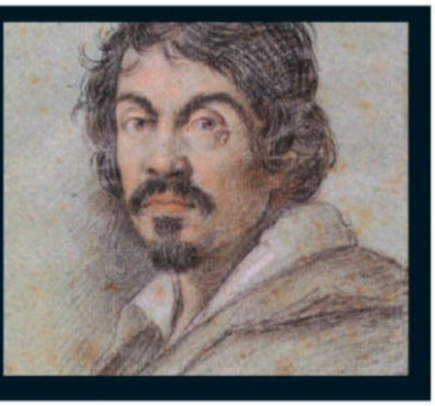
Before you even think about throwing lavish parties with new celebrity pals or cashing in cheques, you're going to have to work hard. Although it is possible to make it as a successful artist on merit alone, the biggest names of the era - Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and James Rosenquist - all studied and honed their craft at prestigious universities.

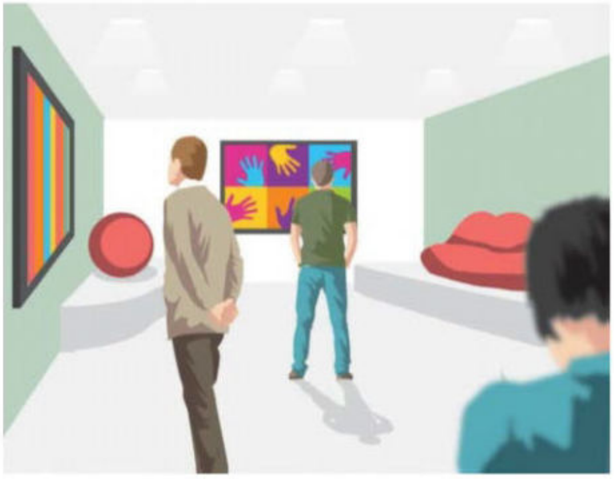
02 Be productive

To become a famous artist you'll have to actually produce some notable work. Two popular mediums of pop art are painting and sculpture, but Warhol also popularised the silk-screening technique. You could focus on everyday objects, or perhaps draw your inspiration from comic books - just remember, keep it humorous, cheeky, bright and colourful.

How not to… handle fame

Caravaggio was an Italian Renaissance painter whose famous works such as *The Death Of The Virgin* and *David With The Head Of Goliath* have prompted him to be hailed as the father of modern painting. However, during his time scandal followed Caravaggio wherever he went. Thrust into fame at just 26 years old, Caravaggio's nontraditional depictions of biblical figures caused controversy, but it was his fiery temper that got him into real trouble. Violent with a penchant for drinking and gambling, Caravaggio was in and out of prison for attacking people, throwing artichokes at a waiter and even attacking Roman guards with stones. His violence reached a climax when he killed a Roman pimp. Caravaggio went on the run for years, sleeping fully clothed with a dagger at his side, but still continued to attack prominent men in society. As he sought a pardon from the Pope he died suddenly in mysterious circumstances. In 2010 high levels of lead were discovered in his bones, leading scientists to believe he had been driven mad by lead poisoning.





03 Put on an exhibition

The key to getting your name out there is to hold exhibitions. These events are a great place to meet other artists, and you might actually sell something to be able to fund future endeavours. When Lichtenstein put on a show at the Castelli Gallery in New York in 1962, the entire collection was purchased before the doors even opened.

04 Network

Although your work should speak for itself, in the pop-art world knowing the right people is key to success. To really throw yourself into the world you'll have to hit the famous nightspots in New York and London. Pop artists featured in each other's work, and also became famous couples, bending and breaking social norms and mainstream ideas of sexuality.

05 Expand into other art forms

Once you've made a name for yourself, it's time to spread your wings into other art forms. Warhol made over 60 films, such as *Sleep*, which featured a man sleeping for six hours, and *Eat*, showing a man eating for 45 minutes. You can also follow in the steps of Claes Oldenburg and create 'happenings', performance-art pieces intended to shock, surprise and amuse.

06 Become a VIP

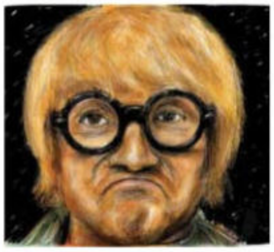
Now you're part of the pop-art elite you may finally have access to the most exclusive of artistic hubs – Warhol's art studio known as The Factory. This silver-painted warehouse became the beating heart of the pop art world and was filled with hustlers, transvestites and famous names such as Truman Capote, Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger and even Salvador Dalí.

4 FAMOUS… POP ARTISTS

DAVID HOCKNEY

1937, BRITAIN

Hockney's bright and colourful work with magazine-inspired images quickly elevated him to one of the leading figures of the pop-art movement.



ANDY WARHOL

1928-1987, USA

The most famous figure in pop art, Warhol stunned the world with controversial art across a range of mediums.

ROY LICHTENSTEIN

1923-1997, USA

Lichtenstein rose to fame with his parody comic-book-style illustrations such as *'Whaam!'* and *Drowning Girl*.

CLAES OLDENBURG

1929, USA

Oldenburg and his wife Coosje van Bruggen became known for their larger-than-life sculptures of everyday objects.

© Ed Crooks

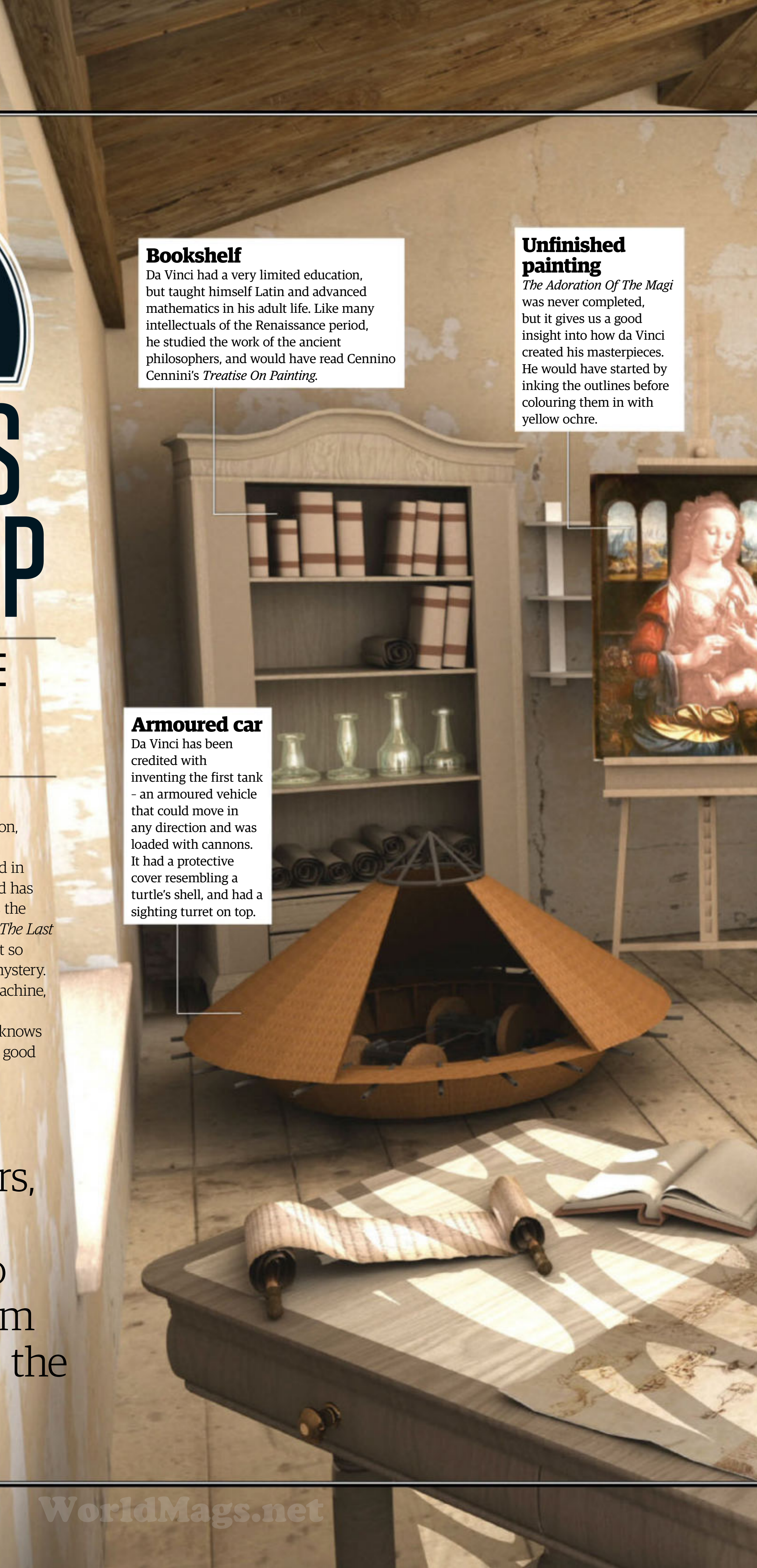
INSIDE HISTORY

DA VINCI'S WORKSHOP

BACK ONCE AGAIN FOR THE RENAISSANCE MASTER, 1478-1482, ITALY

The Renaissance was a time powered by innovation, rational thought and a return to classical art and learning. At its heart was the city of Florence, and in this city lived one of the greatest artists the world has ever known: Leonardo da Vinci. His *Mona Lisa* is the single most visited piece of museum art on record, and *The Last Supper* has inspired countless stories and films alike, but so much about this genius of the 15th century remains a mystery. Many of his designs for inventions, such as his flying machine, went unrealised, and despite making several important scientific discoveries, he never published them. No one knows exactly what his workshop looked like, but we can get a good idea based on what he said and did.

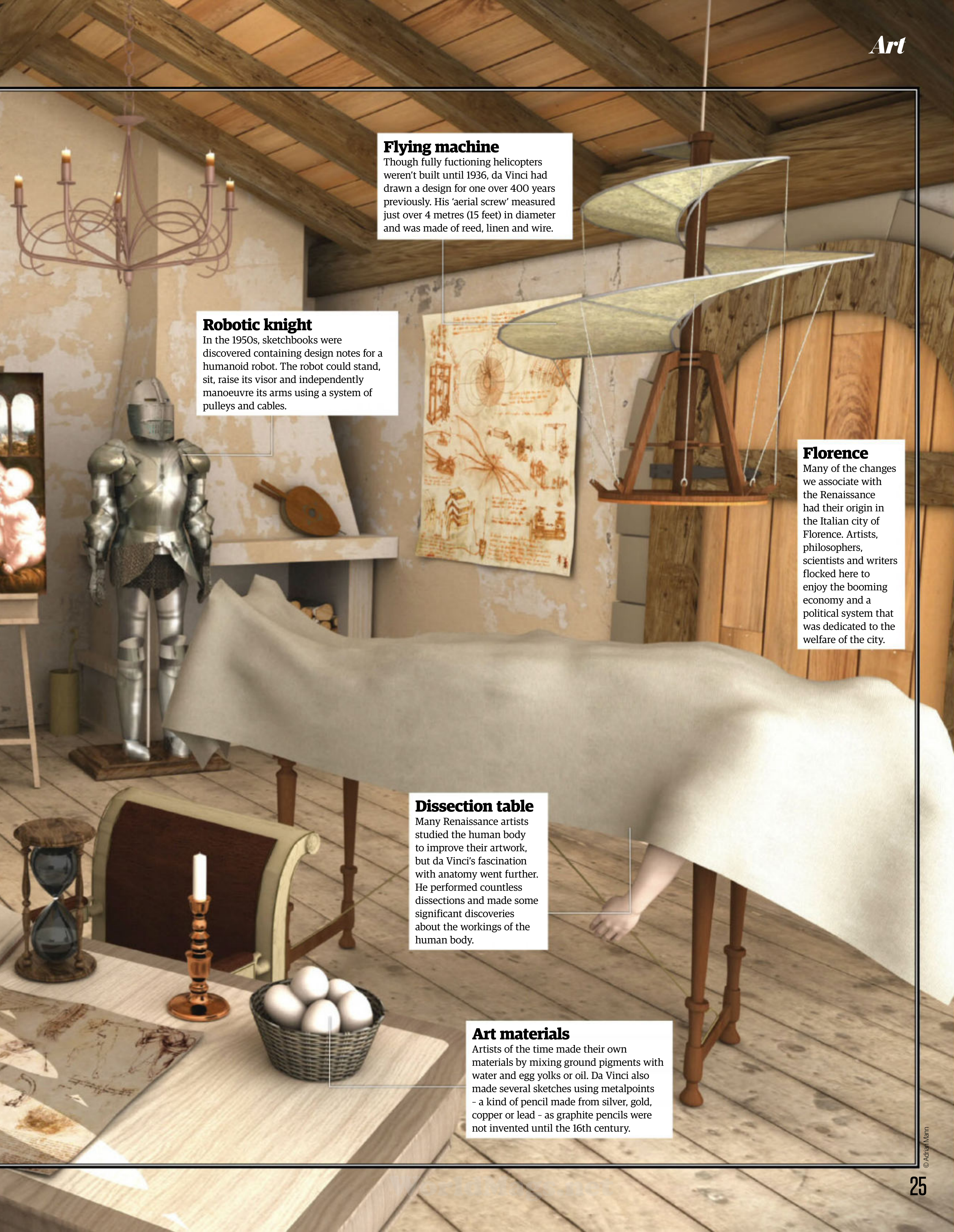
> “Artists, philosophers, scientists and writers flocked to Florence to enjoy a political system that was dedicated to the welfare of the city”



Bookshelf
Da Vinci had a very limited education, but taught himself Latin and advanced mathematics in his adult life. Like many intellectuals of the Renaissance period, he studied the work of the ancient philosophers, and would have read Cennino Cennini's *Treatise On Painting.*

Unfinished painting
The Adoration Of The Magi was never completed, but it gives us a good insight into how da Vinci created his masterpieces. He would have started by inking the outlines before colouring them in with yellow ochre.

Armoured car
Da Vinci has been credited with inventing the first tank – an armoured vehicle that could move in any direction and was loaded with cannons. It had a protective cover resembling a turtle's shell, and had a sighting turret on top.



Flying machine
Though fully fuctioning helicopters weren't built until 1936, da Vinci had drawn a design for one over 400 years previously. His 'aerial screw' measured just over 4 metres (15 feet) in diameter and was made of reed, linen and wire.

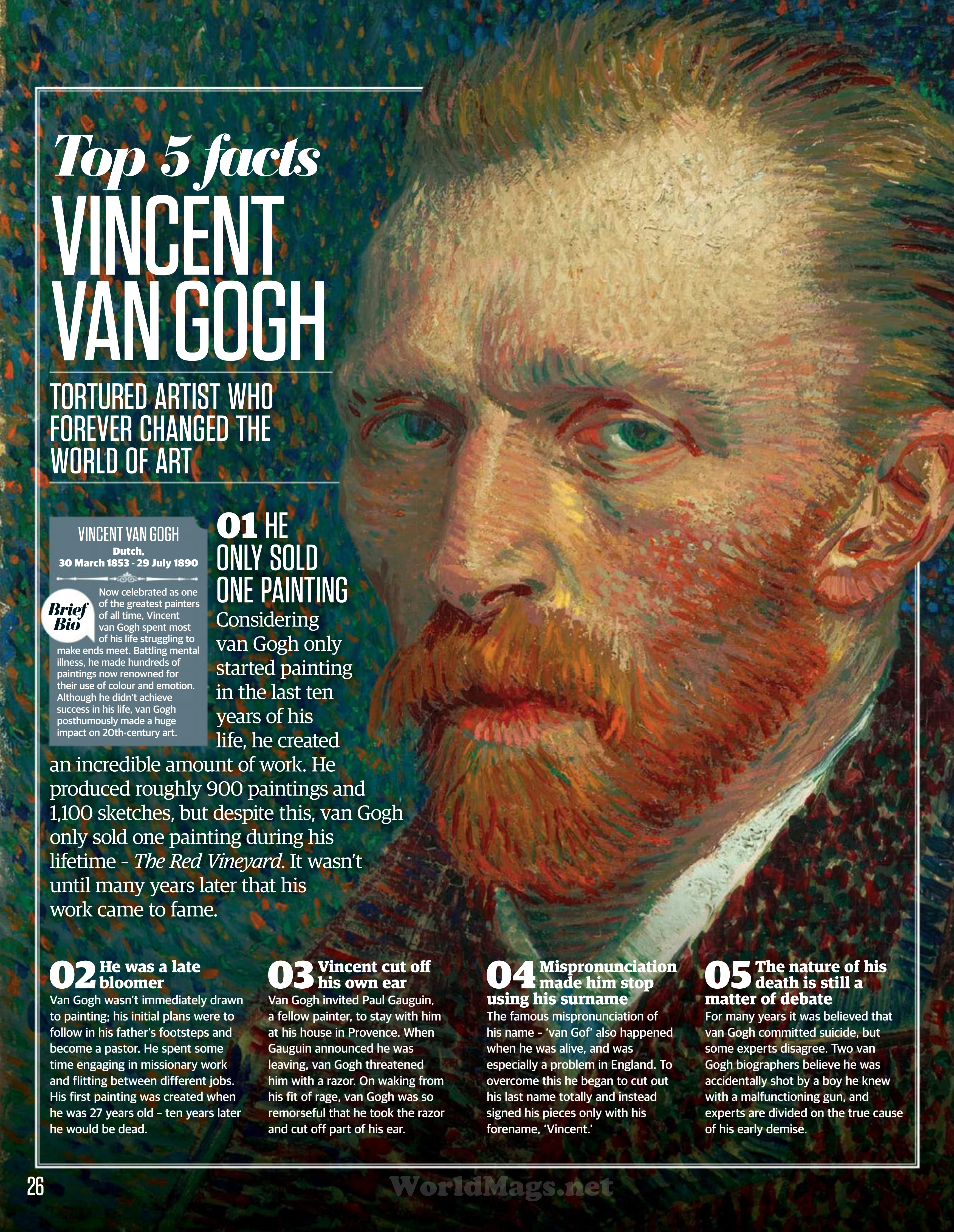
Robotic knight
In the 1950s, sketchbooks were discovered containing design notes for a humanoid robot. The robot could stand, sit, raise its visor and independently manoeuvre its arms using a system of pulleys and cables.

Florence
Many of the changes we associate with the Renaissance had their origin in the Italian city of Florence. Artists, philosophers, scientists and writers flocked here to enjoy the booming economy and a political system that was dedicated to the welfare of the city.

Dissection table
Many Renaissance artists studied the human body to improve their artwork, but da Vinci's fascination with anatomy went further. He performed countless dissections and made some significant discoveries about the workings of the human body.

Art materials
Artists of the time made their own materials by mixing ground pigments with water and egg yolks or oil. Da Vinci also made several sketches using metalpoints – a kind of pencil made from silver, gold, copper or lead – as graphite pencils were not invented until the 16th century.

© Adrian Mann



Top 5 facts

VINCENT VAN GOGH

TORTURED ARTIST WHO FOREVER CHANGED THE WORLD OF ART

VINCENT VAN GOGH
Dutch,
30 March 1853 - 29 July 1890

Brief Bio

Now celebrated as one of the greatest painters of all time, Vincent van Gogh spent most of his life struggling to make ends meet. Battling mental illness, he made hundreds of paintings now renowned for their use of colour and emotion. Although he didn't achieve success in his life, van Gogh posthumously made a huge impact on 20th-century art.

01 HE ONLY SOLD ONE PAINTING

Considering van Gogh only started painting in the last ten years of his life, he created an incredible amount of work. He produced roughly 900 paintings and 1,100 sketches, but despite this, van Gogh only sold one painting during his lifetime - *The Red Vineyard*. It wasn't until many years later that his work came to fame.

02 He was a late bloomer

Van Gogh wasn't immediately drawn to painting; his initial plans were to follow in his father's footsteps and become a pastor. He spent some time engaging in missionary work and flitting between different jobs. His first painting was created when he was 27 years old - ten years later he would be dead.

03 Vincent cut off his own ear

Van Gogh invited Paul Gauguin, a fellow painter, to stay with him at his house in Provence. When Gauguin announced he was leaving, van Gogh threatened him with a razor. On waking from his fit of rage, van Gogh was so remorseful that he took the razor and cut off part of his ear.

04 Mispronunciation made him stop using his surname

The famous mispronunciation of his name - 'van Gof' also happened when he was alive, and was especially a problem in England. To overcome this he began to cut out his last name totally and instead signed his pieces only with his forename, 'Vincent.'

05 The nature of his death is still a matter of debate

For many years it was believed that van Gogh committed suicide, but some experts disagree. Two van Gogh biographers believe he was accidentally shot by a boy he knew with a malfunctioning gun, and experts are divided on the true cause of his early demise.

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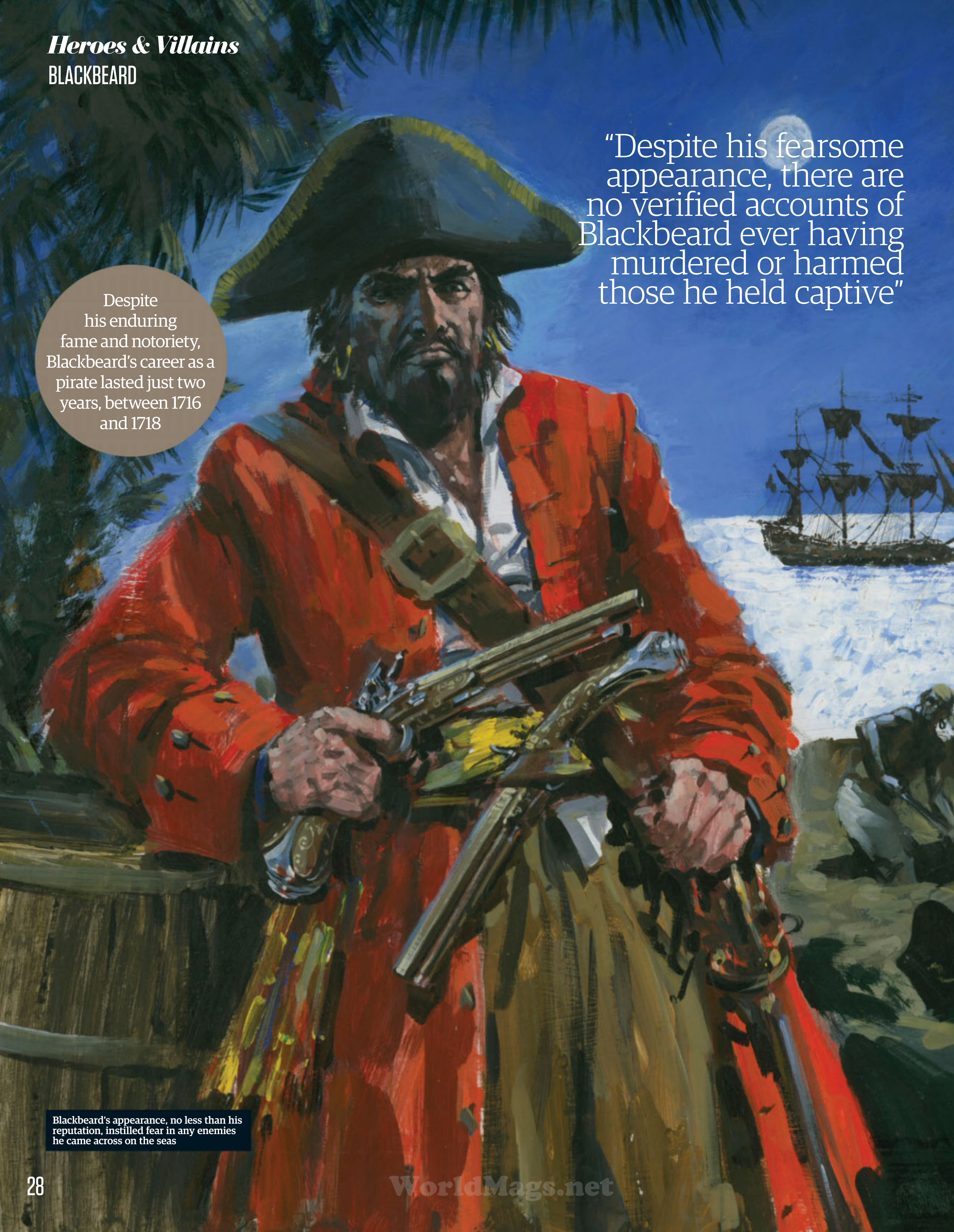


> “Despite his fearsome appearance, there are no verified accounts of Blackbeard ever having murdered or harmed those he held captive”

Despite his enduring fame and notoriety, Blackbeard’s career as a pirate lasted just two years, between 1716 and 1718

Blackbeard’s appearance, no less than his reputation, instilled fear in any enemies he came across on the seas

Heroes & Villains
Blackbeard

Blackbeard is synonymous with the golden age of piracy, but was he a formidable pirate or a masterful image cultivator?

Written by Rachel England

Fearsome pirate and terroriser of the oceans, Blackbeard has become a legendary figure in seafaring stories, making his mark on history books despite a career spanning just two years.

Little is known about early life of Edward Teach – the moniker 'Blackbeard' not coming to life until many years after his birth, which historians estimate to be around 1680. Little is known of his true identity, either. Records exist for Edward Teach, Thatch and Thack, among others, and it was common at the time for pirates to use fake names, so as not to tarnish their family's reputation. His real identity will probably always be unknown.

Teach was raised in the sea port of Bristol and likely began his career as a privateer, or 'corsair' – a person authorised by a government to attack foreign vessels during wartime – during the Spanish War of Succession, also known as Queen Anne's War.

After the war, he set off to the island of New Providence, a largely uninhabited area home only to pirates, traders and transients, where law and order dared not tread. Here he met renowned pirate Benjamin Hornigold, and like others looking for a life of adventure and riches, joined his ship as a crewman. But Hornigold saw something special in Teach. As historian Charles Johnson wrote in his 1724 book, *A General History Of The Robberies And Murders Of The Most Notorious Pyrates*, Teach "had often distinguished himself for his uncommon boldness and personal courage." Hornigold put Teach in command of a sloop, a small sailing boat with a single mast, and together they began a reign of terror along colonial shipping lanes.

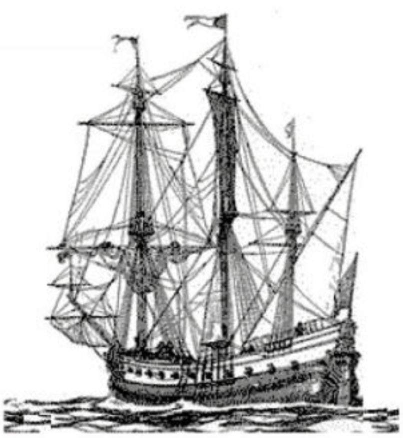
The duo were successful, but inconsistent. Ships at the time very rarely carried precious cargo – and certainly it would be rare to happen upon chests of gold and silver – so pirates relied on looting general goods such as cocoa, cotton and rum, either for their own use, or to sell for reasonable amounts at ports. Hornigold and Teach's strategy, however, seemed mixed. In September 1717, for example, they captured the ship Betty, from Virginia, but only took its stores of Madeira wine before sinking the ship and its remaining cargo.

Come the end of 1717 – by which time Teach, now known as Blackbeard thanks to his impressive facial hair, had his own ship – the valuable cargo from British ships had become too tempting for the fleet's crew. Fearing mutiny, Hornigold retired from piracy, leaving Teach in charge and accepting a royal pardon. It was around this time that Stede Bonnet, also known as 'The Gentleman Pirate', joined Teach. A land owner and military officer from a wealthy family, Bonnet was unable to control his rowdy crew and so ceded control to Teach. The expanded party sailed together as one.

> The wreck of Blackbeard's mighty ship, Queen Anne's Revenge, was found in 1996 off the coast of Carolina

Up until now, Teach, or Blackbeard, as official reports had begun referring to him, had proven himself to be a strong, respected leader and a capable pirate, but it was in November 1717 that the legend really came to life. After attacking French merchant vessel La Concorde off the coast of Saint Vincent, Teach took the ship as his own, renaming it Queen Anne's Revenge and equipping it with 40 guns. It was a large, imposing vessel, flying a sinister flag showing a skeleton spearing a heart – an image that quickly became synonymous with terror on the high seas the world over, and one that perfectly fit the image Blackbeard had cultivated.

A tall, broad man with a thick beard covering most of his face, Blackbeard was a frightening figure – something he played to during battle, when he



Blackbeard's famous ship was the illegally obtained Queen Anne's Revenge

Life in the time of Blackbeard

Queen Anne's War

Blackbeard's career as a pirate coincided with the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, which meant thousands of seamen were relieved of military duty, creating a huge number of highly trained, but bored sailors at a time when the cross-Atlantic colonial shipping trade began to boom. As such, pirate captains had a constant pool of recruits.

Pirates as patrons

While pirates of the time were often viewed as despicable rogues of the sea, official views were sometimes quite different, with the English government considering privateers who became pirates a kind of informal 'reserve naval force'. Royal pardons were regularly issued to pirates and public opinion was often favourable toward them.

Female pirates

Piracy was certainly seen as a man's game, which is why the two famous female pirates – Anne Bonny and Mary Read – disguised themselves as men. When their ship was assaulted in 1720, the two women – along with just one other man – were the only ones to defend it, as the other crew members were too drunk to fight.

A pirate's life

Life aboard a sailing ship was anything but comfortable. The crew lived in cramped and filthy quarters, food spoiled quickly and fresh water was hard to come by (which is why so many pirates drank rum instead). One dietary staple was 'hard tack', a type of biscuit that sailors often ate in the dark to avoid seeing the weevils infested within.

Superstition at sea

Pirates and sailors were notoriously superstitious, believing that having women on board their ship was bad luck – which was surely a problem for the crew of the womanising Blackbeard – and that whistling on a ship would create a storm, hence the phrase 'whistle up a storm'. Many pirates also believed having pierced ears would improve their eyesight.

wore three pistols across his chest and put lit matches under his hat to create a terrifying mist from which he would emerge like the devil himself. As Johnson wrote, he was "such a figure that imagination cannot form an idea of a fury from hell to look more frightful." Blackbeard was a man who understood the importance of appearances, and thought it better to strike fear into the hearts of his enemies than rely on skill alone.

But despite his fearsome appearance, there are no verified accounts of Blackbeard ever having murdered or harmed those he held captive – although the cannon fire involved in forcing other ships into subservience no doubt killed many. Those who surrendered were allowed to sail free, albeit without their possessions. Those that resisted were marooned and their ships torched, but still they escaped with their lives.

However there are numerous legends and newspaper clippings that suggest – despite his relative mercy toward captured ships – he was a man of cruelty. One story claims he shot his own first mate, saying "if he didn't shoot one or two [crewmen] now and then, they'd forget who he was." Another says that after a long drinking session he challenged his crew to sit in the ship's hold while they set alight several pots of sulphur. All except Blackbeard scrambled out for fresh air, with the captain later emerging, snarling, "Damn ye, I'm a better man than all ye milksops put together!" Some even claim Blackbeard would force his young wives to prostitute themselves to groups of his companions, while he would look on, laughing.

In May of 1718, Blackbeard once again demonstrated his dual personality, during the Blockade of Charleston where he showed both mercy and menace. His flotilla blocked the port of Charleston, and with no guard ship at the port the pirates had their pick of ships. They took over the Crowley, a vessel bound for London carrying a group of prominent Charleston citizens, including Samuel Wragg, a member of the Council of the Province of Carolina. Blackbeard demanded a chest of medical supplies from the South Carolina government, and threatened to execute his captives if his demands were not met.

Wragg – acting as spokesperson for the hostages and no doubt using his social standing to his advantage – agreed, and one hostage, Mr Marks, was sent with two pirates to retrieve the supplies. Blackbeard imposed a deadline of two days. After three days, the party hadn't returned, and the hostages became frantic, fearing Blackbeard's wrath. Eventually a message arrived: Mark's boat

Despite his fearsome reputation, Blackbeard was something of a ladies' man, and is said to have had 14 wives

Pieces of eight

Thanks largely to fictionalised stories such as *Treasure Island*, the idea of 'buried treasure' is commonly associated with pirates from this era, and Blackbeard is no exception. But there's no evidence to suggest that he ever buried any valuables, and nothing that's been unearthed – save for the wreckage of Queen Anne's Revenge – has ever been attributed to him. In fact, the only known pirate to ever bury anything valuable was William Kidd, who sailed the seas long before Blackbeard. But that's not stopped adamant treasure hunters from combing the Carolina coast, just in case.

The booty that Blackbeard and his contemporaries would plunder was more likely to be composed of perishable items such as cocoa and rum, rather than the chests of gold and silver commonly described in myth and legend. These goods in bulk still held value, and given the dangers of piracy at the time, most knew it was foolish to transport valuables across the sea.

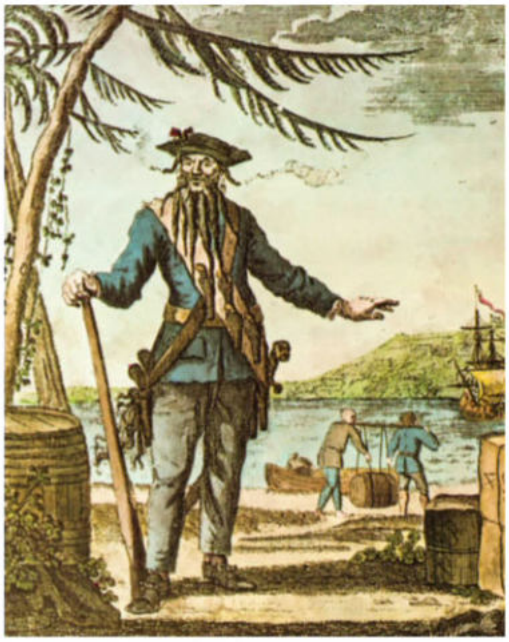
Legend has it that his skull was used to make a silver drinking chalice, with one 1930s judge in Carolina claiming to have drunk from it

"Teach took the ship as his own, renaming it Queen Anne's revenge and equipping it with 40 guns"

Defining moment

Teach becomes a pirate 1716-1717

After the singing of the Treaty of Utrecht, which established peace after Queen Anne's War, Teach moves to the uninhabited island of New Providence, within easy reach of major shipping lanes and home to pirates, traders and transients – a place where law and order are unheard of. Here, he meets renowned pirate Benjamin Hornigold and joins his crew, commandeering a sloop Hornigold had taken as a prize. Shortly after, the pair go on a pillaging rampage through the waters, capturing boats from Havana, Bermuda, Madeira and Virginia. Teach is recorded as a pirate in his own right.



Timeline

1680

Edward Teach is born
There's no firm record of Edward Teach's birth, but historians suspect it was likely around 1680, and that he was probably born in Bristol, an important international sea port at the time.
1680

Learning the ropes
Teach serves as a privateer during Queen Anne's War, a struggle between France and Britain for control of North America. This period of his life gives rise to the name of his ship, Queen Anne's Revenge.
1701-1714

A legend is born
The name 'Blackbeard' enters official records for the first time in a report to a British colonial council about Hornigold's operations.
Spring 1717

Going it alone
As his crew becomes disgruntled with the lack of pillaging, Benjamin Hornigold steps down as pirate captain and retires from piracy, leaving Blackbeard in charge. The pair never meet again.
Late 1717

The blockade of Charleston
Blackbeard strikes terror into the town of Charleston after blockading its wealthy port, plundering merchant ships and seizing passengers and crew of the Crowley. After his demands for medicinal supplies are met, he releases the hostages, without their valuables – or clothes.
May 1718

had capsized. Blackbeard granted a reprieve of two further days, but still the party did not return.

Yet the captain did not brutally execute his hostages, as threatened. Instead, he moved a number of his ships into the Charleston harbour, causing panic in the town. Eventually Marks returned with the medical supplies. It emerged that on his arrival to South Carolina's government offices the drugs had been provided swiftly, but the pirates he had travelled with had disappeared to go drinking with friends. They were finally discovered, drunk and entirely incapable of manning a boat back to Blackbeard. The pirate captain kept his word, though, and the ships and prisoners were released, albeit without their valuables.

However, while Blackbeard was to some extent an honourable man, he was still a pirate, and his willingness to double-cross others – his own men, in fact – was never clearer than in June 1718. His former captain and mentor Benjamin Hornigold had previously accepted a royal pardon, and it seems likely that around the time of the blockade of Charleston, Blackbeard had been considering seeking one, too. Pardons were regularly issued, with officials in England taking a rather relaxed view of piracy. For example, pirate Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1581 when he returned from a round-the-world expedition with a booty of more than £1 million.

> Blackbeard wasn't the most successful pirate ever – Henry Avery once took a single ship worth more than Blackbeard took in his career

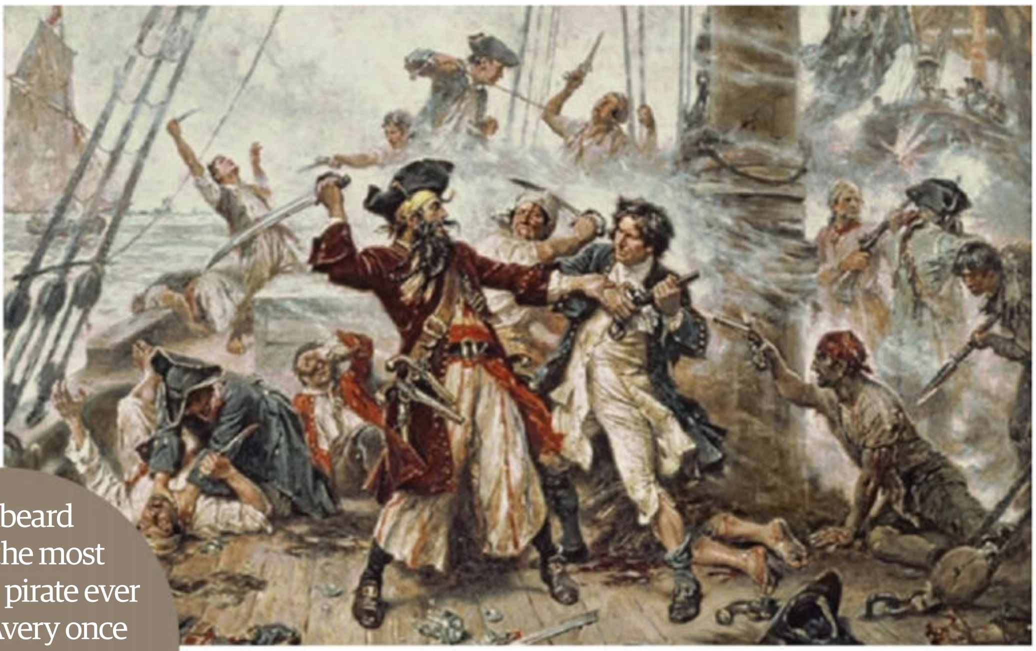
The pardon was open to all pirates who surrendered before 5 September 1718, but also stipulated that immunity was only assured on crimes committed before 5 January of that year. In theory, this would mean death for Blackbeard for his actions at Charleston. It was likely that this misdemeanour would be waived, but he was a smart man and wanted his safety to be assured.

Defining moment

Blackbeard gets his treasure

November 1717

On 28 November, Blackbeard's two ships attack French merchant vessel La Concorde transporting slaves off the coast of Saint Vincent, firing cannons across its bulwarks and forcing its captain to surrender. Blackbeard gives the crew of La Concorde the smaller of his two ships and renames La Concorde 'Queen Anne's Revenge'. He equips the ship with 40 guns, making it one of the world's most formidable pirate ships.



After discussing the matter with Bonnet, he sent his pirate companion and trusted friend to Bath Town to surrender. Bonnet received a full pardon and then travelled back to Blackbeard to collect his ship, the Revenge, and the remainder of his crew.

Upon his return, however, he found that Blackbeard had disappeared, having stripped the Revenge of its provisions and marooned its crew.

Blackbeard, without knowing the outcome of Bonnet's pardon, then sought his own from Governor Eden in June 1718, and settled in the town of Bath, where he took a wife and found work as a privateer – a burgeoning industry that was helpful in keeping restless former pirates occupied. But this was to be the beginning of the end for the legendary seaman.

Defining moment

The beginning of the end

October 1718

Blackbeard parties at Ocracoke Island with a cohort that includes dubious characters Charles Vane, Israel Hands and 'Calico Jack' Rackham. The governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, had issued a proclamation that all former pirates must make themselves known to the authorities, and not travel in groups larger than three. The governor orders a number of captains, including Lieutenant Robert Maynard, to capture Blackbeard.

While out on an expedition, he encountered Charles Vane, another English pirate, and he, Vane and a group of other notorious individuals, including Israel Hands, Robert Deal and Calico Jack, spent several drunken evenings together. This party of dangerous figures caused panic for local officials, in particular Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia, who had limited tolerance for piracy. The governor commissioned Lieutenant Robert Maynard to capture Blackbeard and his crew, offering a hefty incentive from the Assembly of Virginia.

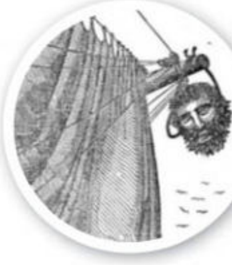
But Blackbeard was outsmarted. Believing that Maynard had only a small crew with him, the pirates boarded Maynard's ship. No sooner had they set foot on the vessel than a veritable army came bursting forth from the ship's hold, shouting and firing, overpowering the pirates with superior training and weaponry. Blackbeard and Maynard fought head-to-head, and as Maynard drew back to fire at the pirate, Blackbeard advanced and was cut down by one of Maynard's men before being brutally attacked – and eventually killed – by Maynard's crew.

It was a grisly death for the legendary pirate, but he fought to the end: his body revealed at least five bullet wounds and 20 stab wounds suffered before he was brought down. His corpse was thrown overboard and his head hung from the bow of Maynard's ship – the final humiliation for a man who had for so long proudly dominated the seas.

Double cross
Queen Anne's Revenge runs aground, and while his partner Bonnet is away seeking a pardon from Governor Charles Eden, Blackbeard strips his ship of valuables and maroons Bonnet's men.
June 1718

A quiet life
Blackbeard seeks his pardon from the governor of Virginia, and finding kind hospitality from a town in need of an economic boost, decides to settle down in Bath and take a wife.
June 1718

Off the wagon
After months of relative peace and quiet, Blackbeard sails to St Thomas on a sloop he renames Adventure, seeking a commission as a privateer. He returns to piracy, and the governor of Pennsylvania issues a warrant for his arrest.
Summer 1718

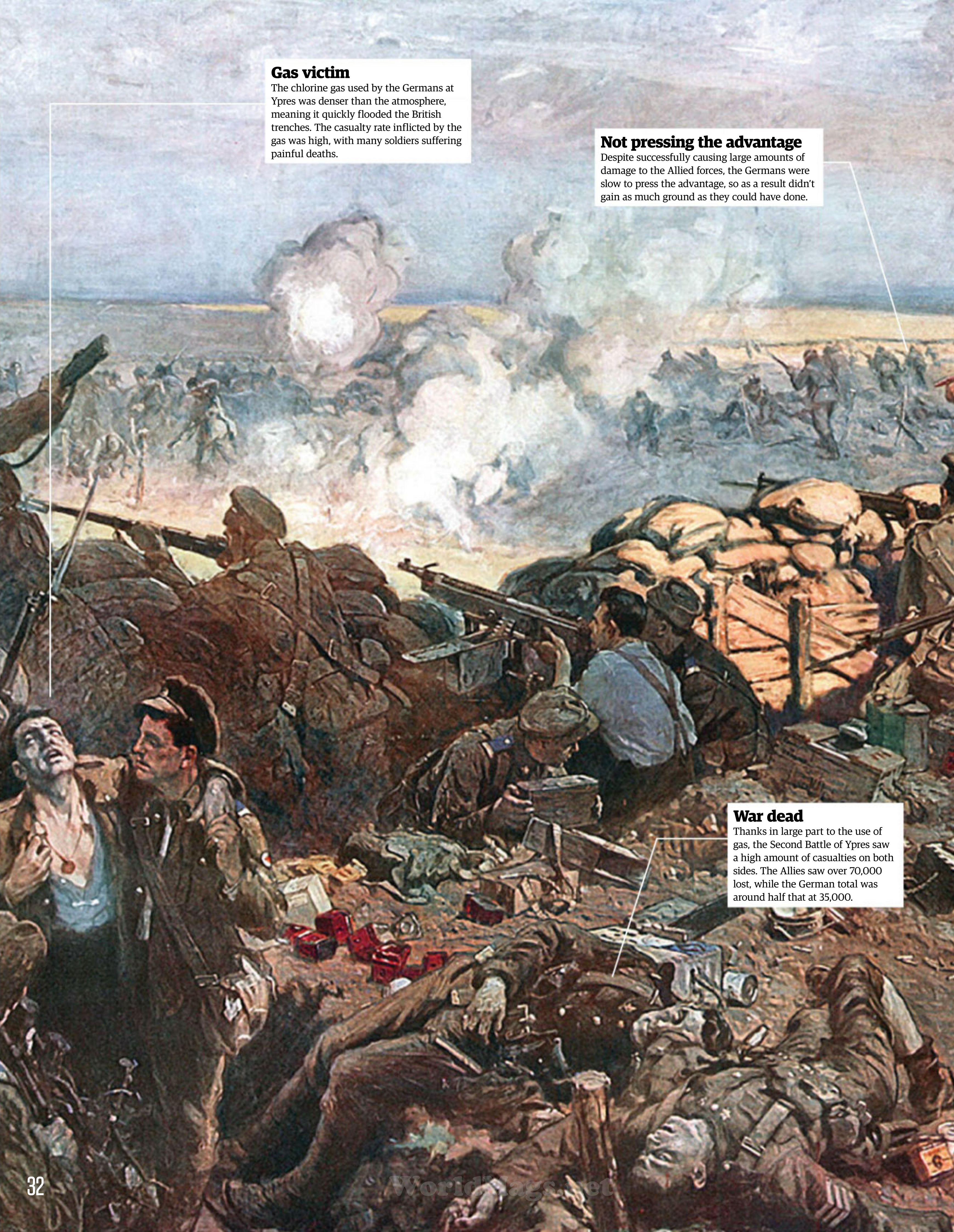


The end of a golden age
Maynard tracks Blackbeard down, and the pirates open fire. Mistakenly believing they've won the battle, the pirates board Maynard's ship, but are quickly overpowered. Blackbeard is killed after a brutal fight.
November 1718

1719

Setting an example
Blackbeard's associates are tried in Williamsburg, Virginia. Records show that one is acquitted and one is pardoned, but the rest are hanged.
March 1719

© Look and Learn; Thinkstock



Gas victim

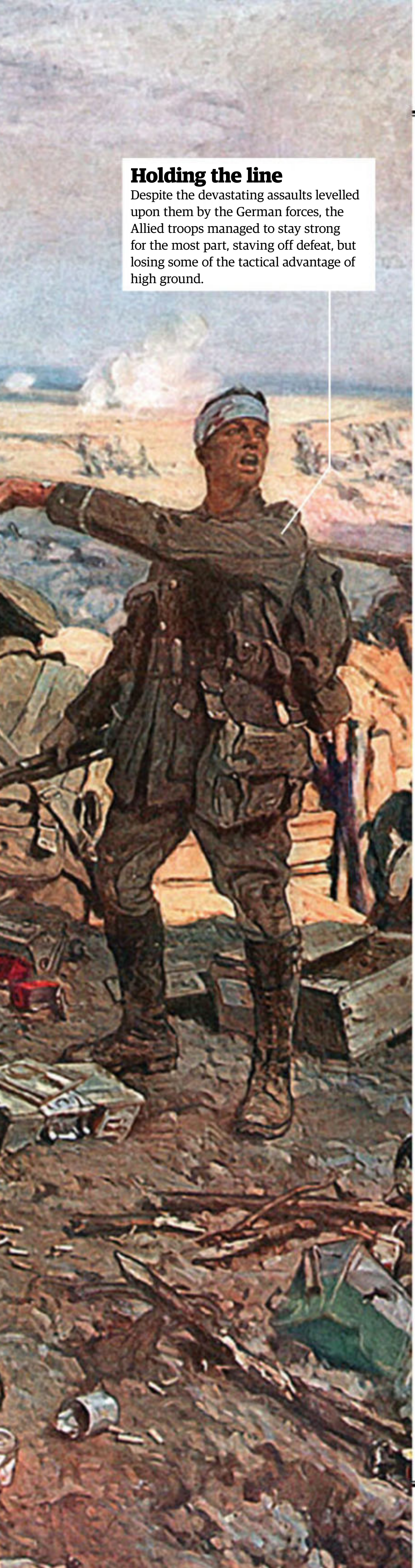
The chlorine gas used by the Germans at Ypres was denser than the atmosphere, meaning it quickly flooded the British trenches. The casualty rate inflicted by the gas was high, with many soldiers suffering painful deaths.

Not pressing the advantage

Despite successfully causing large amounts of damage to the Allied forces, the Germans were slow to press the advantage, so as a result didn't gain as much ground as they could have done.

War dead

Thanks in large part to the use of gas, the Second Battle of Ypres saw a high amount of casualties on both sides. The Allies saw over 70,000 lost, while the German total was around half that at 35,000.



Holding the line
Despite the devastating assaults levelled upon them by the German forces, the Allied troops managed to stay strong for the most part, staving off defeat, but losing some of the tactical advantage of high ground.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF YPRES

YPRES, BELGIUM, 21 APRIL - 25 MAY 1915

When recalling some of the hugely destructive trench-warfare battles of World War I, Ypres is one of the first names that comes to mind. While the First Battle of 1914 stands out due to the catastrophic death toll, the Second Battle retains historical significance for a different - but equally sinister - reason: it marked the first use of poison gas in battle on the Western Front.

The first instance of its use happened at the start of the Battle of Gravenstafel - the first of six smaller battles that collectively form the larger Second Battle of Ypres. After first shelling the French territorial and Algerian/Moroccan forces with howitzer fire, the German troops unleashed their 5,700 canisters' worth of chlorine gas, carried toward the Allies by the prevailing winds.

Its impact was instant and catastrophic. Of the 10,000 troops, around 6,000 were dead within minutes. When combined with water, chlorine becomes acidic - in the process destroying the eyes and lungs. The surviving French troops scattered, leaving a seven-kilometre (4.3-mile)-wide gap for the Germans to advance through.

However, the German forces became victims of their own success. Not anticipating the effectiveness of gas, much of their reserves had been transferred west to the Russian front. Coupled with their weariness of possible Allied traps and the adverse effects of the still-lingering gas, they advanced slowly. Their reticence gave the Allied troops time to counter-attack, successfully driving the German troops back, but not without casualties.

Having seen the brutal efficiency of gas as a weapon, the Germans used it again - this time on 24 April at the Battle of St Julien against Canadian forces. Again, the losses were heavy, although despite being pushed back, the Canadian troops managed to hold on, having developed the method of holding urine-soaked rags to their faces in order to counteract the effects of the gas. British reinforcements arrived on 3 May, by which point the Allies had suffered around 1,000 fatalities.

After the Allied troops fell back closer to the town of Ypres - recognising that only a large-scale assault would push the Germans back, something they didn't at that time have the manpower to commit - the battle recommenced on 8 May. Although the Germans were able to occupy Frezenberg Ridge and continued to inflict devastating assaults on the Allied forces, they managed to hold the line.

A further assault at Bellewaarde on 24 May by the German forces (again by poison gas) forced the Allied troops to withdraw and retreat by about a kilometre (0.6 miles). Prevented from making further advances due to a lack of personnel and supplies, they instead resorted to bombing the town - by the battle's end, Ypres was little more than a pile of rubble.

The death tolls make for particularly dire reading: the combined Allied forces experienced around 70,000 casualties; the Germans 35,000. Furthermore, the effectiveness of gas as a weapon had been clearly and brutally demonstrated. Although its use was widely condemned, the British adopted its use, putting it into effect at Loos later that year. Thus, the after-effects of one of the bloodiest battles of the war would continue to linger on.

Allied Army

TROOPS EIGHT DIVISIONS

CASUALTIES 70,000

GENERAL SIR HORACE SMITH-DORRIEN

LEADER

On 6 May, Smith-Dorrien was relieved from duty by General French, replaced with Herbert Plumer.

Strengths Very organised and pragmatic decision-maker.

Weakness Poor relationship with commanding officer led to his ultimate dismissal.

ALLIED SOLDIER

KEY UNIT

The Allied Army comprised British, French, Canadian and African forces, with soldiers from other Commonwealth countries.

Strengths Included the well-trained British Expeditionary Force.

Weakness Defending a vulnerable position; couldn't defend against gas.

HOWITZER

KEY WEAPON

Faced with gas attacks and long-range artillery assaults, the British replied with fire of their own.

Strengths Long range and potentially devastating.

Weakness Found themselves in a tactically inferior position, which reduced effectiveness.

01 Unsuccessful gas attack

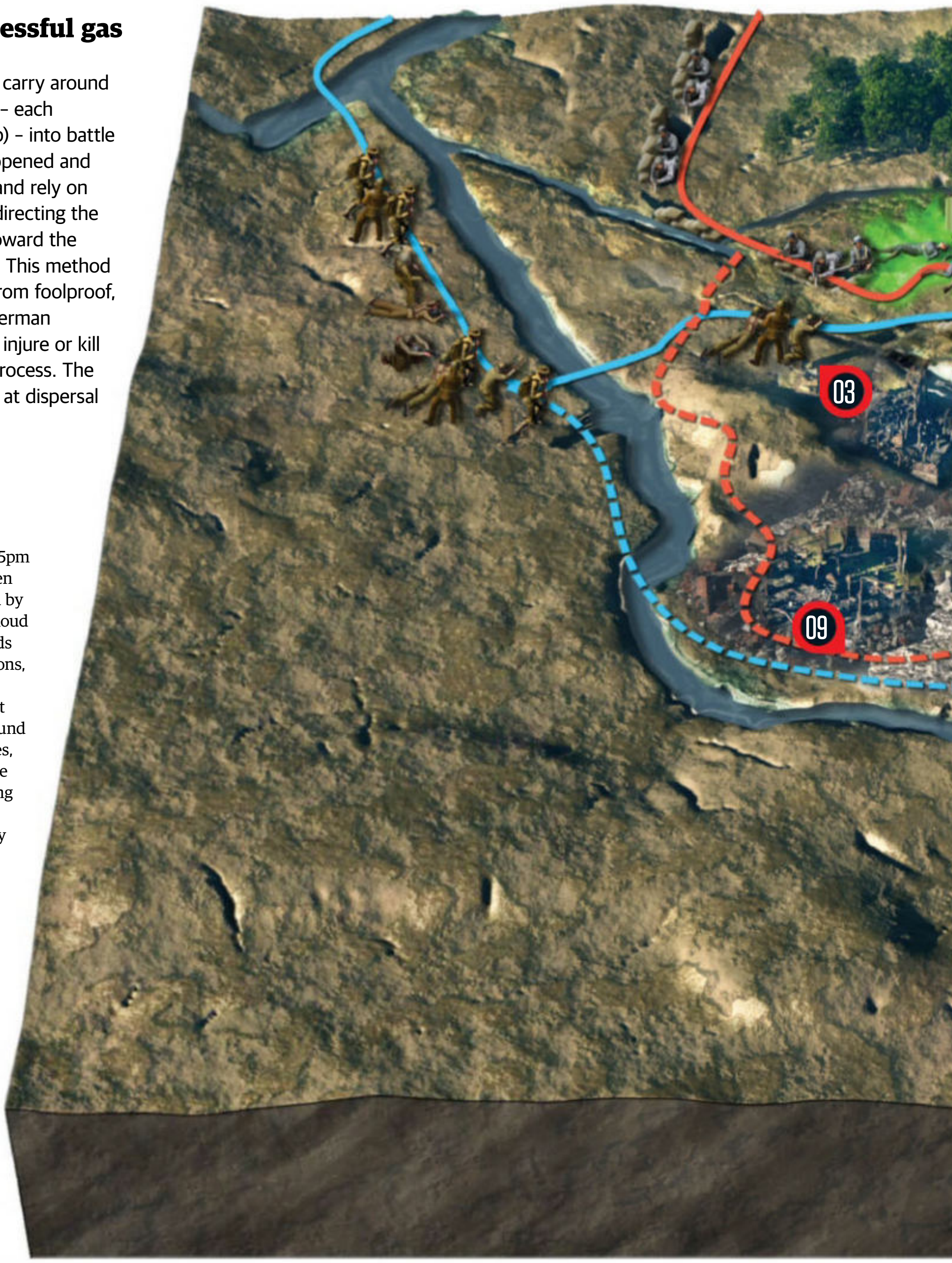
The German troops carry around 5,730 gas canisters – each weighing 41kg (90lb) – into battle by hand. They are opened and operated by hand, and rely on the wind direction directing the poisonous clouds toward the enemy combatants. This method of execution is far from foolproof, with a number of German troops managing to injure or kill themselves in the process. The first three attempts at dispersal are unsuccessful.

02 Successful gas attack

The Allied troops' luck doesn't hold. At about 5pm on 22 April, having been successfully unleashed by the German forces, a cloud of chlorine gas descends on a number of battalions, with the Algerian and French forces the worst affected. There are around 6,000 instant casualties, with the majority of the rest of them abandoning their positions in their desperation to get away from the gas.

03 Germans advance

The retreating Allied forces leave the way clear for the German forces to advance into the now-unoccupied territory, which they do at around 5.15pm. Moving 3-4km (1.9-2.5mi) into French territory, they capture Pilckem Ridge by the village of Pilckem, achieving their first objective of the battle.

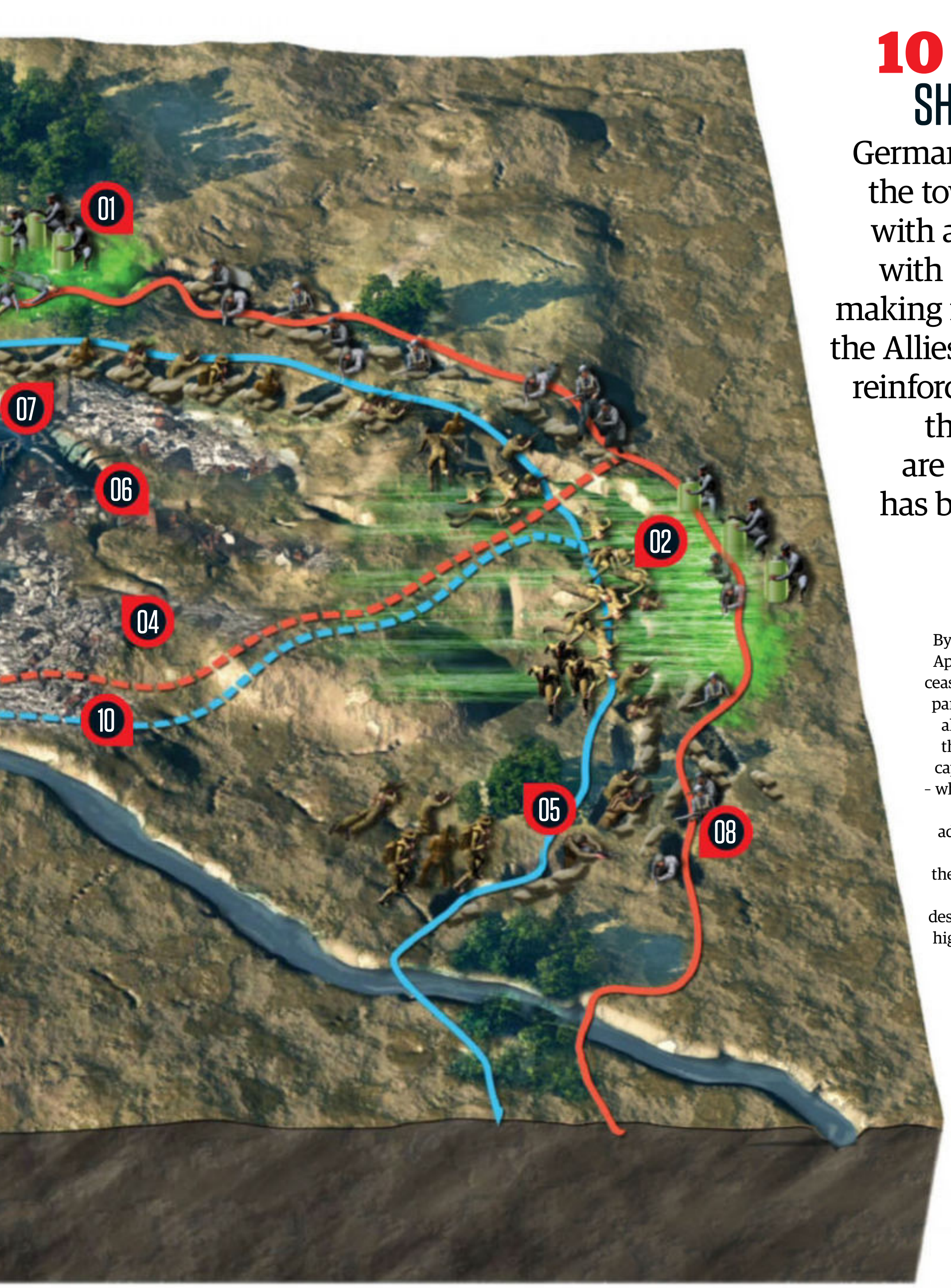


04 GERMANS ESTABLISH BRIDGEHEADS

Many of the German reserves have been sent to fight on the Russian front, but they make use of what they have, with the 45th and 46th Reserve Divisions setting up bridgeheads by the Yser Canal at Steenstraat and Het Sas. They infiltrate a gap in the front line, with Ypres now exposed.

05 The Canadians counter-attack

In danger of being exposed, the 13th Battalion of the 1st Canadian Division join up with some surviving French troops and launch a counter-attack on the left flank on the road between St Julien and Poelcappelle. In doing this, they successfully manage to halt the advance of the German 51st Reserve Division, preventing them from assisting with the main offensive.



10 GERMANS SHELL YPRES

Germans bombard the town of Ypres with artillery fire, with their aim of making it harder for the Allies to bring in reinforcements. By the time they are done, Ypres has been heavily damaged.

09 Germans halt advance

By around 8.30pm on 23 April, the German forced cease their assault. This is partly because they have already achieved one of their main objectives of capturing Pilckem Ridge - which is on high ground and thus a tactically advantageous spot - but also because they lack the manpower to sustain a continuous assault, despite having wreaked a high casualty rate on the Allied forces.

08 Canadians attack again

After the failure of the French assault, the Canadian 3rd Infantry Brigade plan another assault for 11.30pm. This is later postponed, before commencing again in the early hours of 23 April.

06 Langemarck captured

French soldiers occupying the village of Langemarck avoid the gas, but quickly find themselves overwhelmed by the German forces, who defeat them and capture the area.

07 FRENCH COUNTER-ATTACK HALTED

Six companies of the French 7th Battalion Zouaves make another counter-attack at about 8pm from Boesinghe, crossing the Yser Canal in the direction of Pilckem. They eventually come into contact with German forces, but despite several hours of fighting, little progress is made.

German Army

TROOPS SEVEN DIVISIONS

CASUALTIES 35,000

ALBRECHT, DUKE OF WÜRTTEMBERG

LEADER

The head of the German house of Württemberg was a decorated army general during WWI.

Strengths Previous experience of victory at the Battle of the Ardennes earlier in WWI.

Weakness His overly cautious nature cost him further advances.

GERMAN SOLDIER

KEY UNIT

The German forces came prepared, ready to use a deadly new weapon that would alter the game.

Strengths Possessed the tactical advantage of high ground.

Weakness Lacking sufficient numbers to complete their objective and win the campaign.

CHLORINE GAS

KEY WEAPON

The first time it was used in a large-scale offensive assault was in the protracted Second Battle of Ypres.

Strengths Devastatingly effective, difficult to defend against.

Weakness Dangerous to carry - wind blowing in the wrong direction can make it fatal to friendly forces.

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Through History

FLYING MACHINES

Humanity has dreamt of conquering the skies for centuries - here are the major milestones in doing so

'Zeppelin' became synonymous with airships of all types

HOT-AIR BALLOON 1783

In 1782, Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier discovered that hot air rises when they tried holding a flame under a paper bag. The brothers made their first public display of this discovery on 4 June 1783 in the marketplace in Annonay, southern France. Their balloon rose around 900 metres (3,000 feet) into the air and remained aloft for ten minutes. After the brothers had experimented with animals, Jean Francois Pilâtre de Rozier and Francois Laurent d'Arlandes became the first human passengers on an untethered Montgolfier balloon, ascending over Paris on 21 November 1783.

Hot-air balloons were the first human-carrying flying machines

ZEPPELIN 1895-1940S

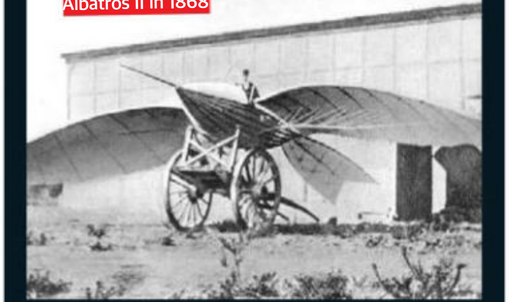
The German former general Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin patented a design for a rigid airship in 1895. Zeppelins flew commercially with DELAG, the world's first airline, from 1910 onward, and were used by the Germans as bombers in World War I. By the early-1930s they were making regular transatlantic flights, but on 6 May 1937 the hydrogen-filled Hindenburg burst into flames while attempting to dock in New Jersey, killing 35 people. This disaster, and the coming of faster aircraft in World War II, led to the demise of the Zeppelin.

Wernher Von Braun

1912-1977, GERMAN

Von Braun was behind the Nazi ballistics programmes of WWII. The V-2 was the first man-made object to reach near space. From September 1944, over 3,000 missiles were launched. Despite later leading the US space programme, his Nazi past was controversial: construction of the V-2 had involved concentration-camp labour.

Biplanes were popular during the early days of 20th-century aviation



Le Bris and his Albatros II in 1868

GLIDER 1849

The first non-balloon, man-carrying aircraft were built by Sir George Cayley, whose 'gliders' successfully achieved brief wingborne hops. Jean Marie Le Bris then went on to construct a flying machine called the Albatross, which was pulled along on a horse-drawn cart in order to take off. His glider reached heights of 100 metres (330 feet), making it the first one to fly higher than its point of departure. After World War I, recreational gliders were built, which became widely popular in the 1930s. This is now their main application.

PROPELLER PLANE 1903

Americans Wilbur and Orville Wright conducted the first successful aeroplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on 17 December 1903. The Wright brothers successfully grasped the fundamentals of flight dynamics, allowing the pilot to steer the aircraft and maintain equilibrium. Their first flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 37 metres (120 feet). World War I accelerated aeroplane technology; when Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Brown made the first non-stop transatlantic flight from Newfoundland to Ireland, they flew a wartime Vickers Vimy bomber.

> "The Wright brothers' first successful aeroplane flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 37 metres"

HELICOPTER

19TH CENTURY

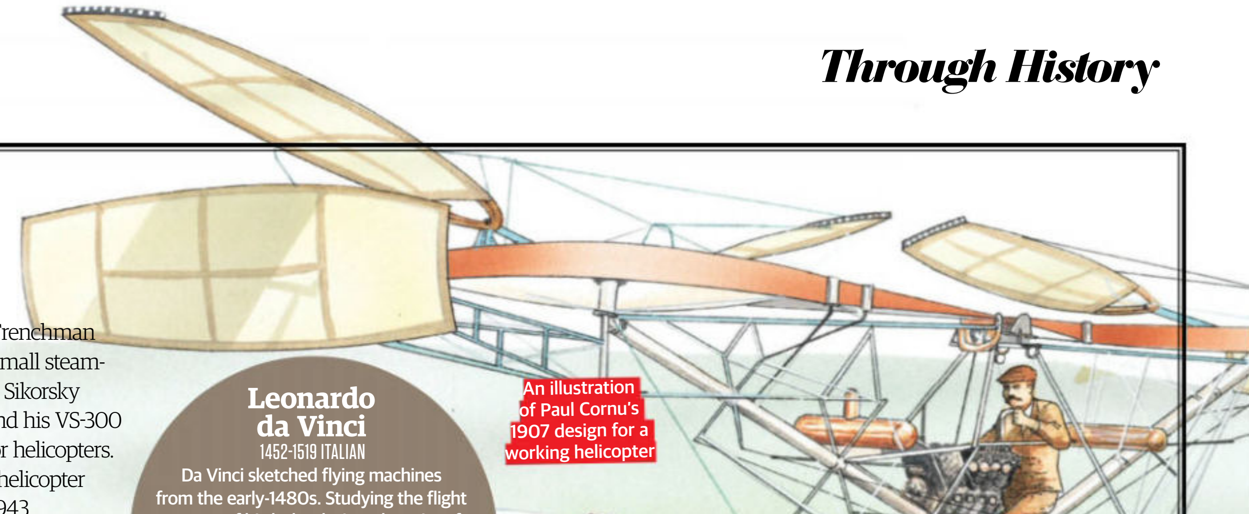
In 1861 the word 'helicopter' was coined by Frenchman Gustave de Ponton d'Amécourt who built a small steam-powered variety. The Russian-American Igor Sikorsky began work on helicopters as early as 1910 and his VS-300 became the model for all modern single-rotor helicopters. His R-4 was the world's first mass-produced helicopter and went into service with the US Navy in 1943.

Designed in 1946 by Arthur Young of the Bell Aircraft Company, the Bell Model 47 helicopter was the first with a full bubble canopy, the world's most popular model for military and civilian use over the next 30 years.

Leonardo da Vinci

1452-1519 ITALIAN

Da Vinci sketched flying machines from the early-1480s. Studying the flight patterns of birds, he designed an aircraft in 1502's *Codex On The Flight Of Birds*. One of his designs was for an ornithopter that mimicked the flapping of a bird's wing. His machines were impractical, but Da Vinci did contribute to the understanding of gravity and aerodynamics.



An illustration of Paul Cornu's 1907 design for a working helicopter

SPACE ROCKET 1944

Long-range ballistic missiles in warfare were introduced by the Nazis in 1944 when the Vergeltungswaffe-2 (V-2) was launched against Allied targets in World War II. The V-2 designer Wernher Von Braun moved to the United States after the war. The Cold War-inspired race to the Moon was in many ways a rivalry between Von Braun and his Soviet counterpart, Sergei Korolev. The pioneering work of both men drove space exploration forward. Travelling aboard Vostok-1, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space on 12 April 1961. US President John F Kennedy committed the United States to putting a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s. When Apollo 11 carried the first astronauts to the Moon in July 1969, the mission's lunar module was carried atop a massive liquid-fuelled Saturn V rocket.

JET PACK 1952

The first jet pack was designed by Thomas Moore, which succeeded in lifting him into the air for a few seconds. In 1958, a device called the Jumpbelt allowed the wearer to leap several metres into the air with a slightly longer flight time. The Bell Rocket Belt was then developed a few years later for the US Army, but plans for a jet-powered version were scrapped when the military decided it was too large and heavy. Since then, jet-pack development has been handled almost entirely by independent companies. A Swiss pilot called Yves Rocher created one of the few existing jet packs in the world in 2006, which achieved speeds of 200 kilometres (124 miles) per hour.

The Martin Jetpack is among the newest, most high-tech versions of jet packs

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The Concorde was the first supersonic commercial airliner

CONCORDE 1969-2003

By the early 1970s package tourism had put foreign travel (at least to the continent) within the reach of most Britons. But exclusivity and expense were major drawbacks with Concorde. Introduced into commercial service on 21 January 1976, the supersonic aircraft travelled at twice the speed of sound at an altitude of 16,760 metres (55,000 feet). However, only 20 aircraft were ever built for use by Air France and British Airways. And while Concorde could get from London to New York in 3.5 hours, ticket prices were very high, often up to five times higher than for a 'subsonic' flight. In July 2000, a Concorde crashed in Gonesse near Paris, killing all its crew and passengers. By October 2003, the British and French had decommissioned all their Concordes.

The Wright brothers

WILBUR (1867-1912) & ORVILLE (1871-1948), AMERICAN

As children, their interest in flight was piqued by a propeller-driven toy that their father bought for them. When it broke, they built another of their own. In 1909 they set up the Wright Company, which built around 120 aeroplanes of different designs over five years.

Atlantis
United States
NASA

The Space Shuttle is one of humanity's most ambitious flying machines to this date

SPACEPLANE 1959

The X-15 was the first rocket-powered aircraft to reach the edge of outer space and return safely to Earth. As of 2014, it holds the world record for the highest speed reached by a manned aircraft, at 7,274 kilometres (4,520 miles) per hour. Since then, only four other spaceplanes have flown successfully: Space Shuttle, Buran, SpaceShipOne and X-37. SpaceShipTwo recently made the news when it crashed during a test flight – a major setback for space tourism.

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo suffered a crash during a test flight in 2014

© Thinkstock

What if…
The USA had won the Vietnam War?

VIETNAM, 1955-1975

Written by Calum Waddell

DR ANDREW WIEST

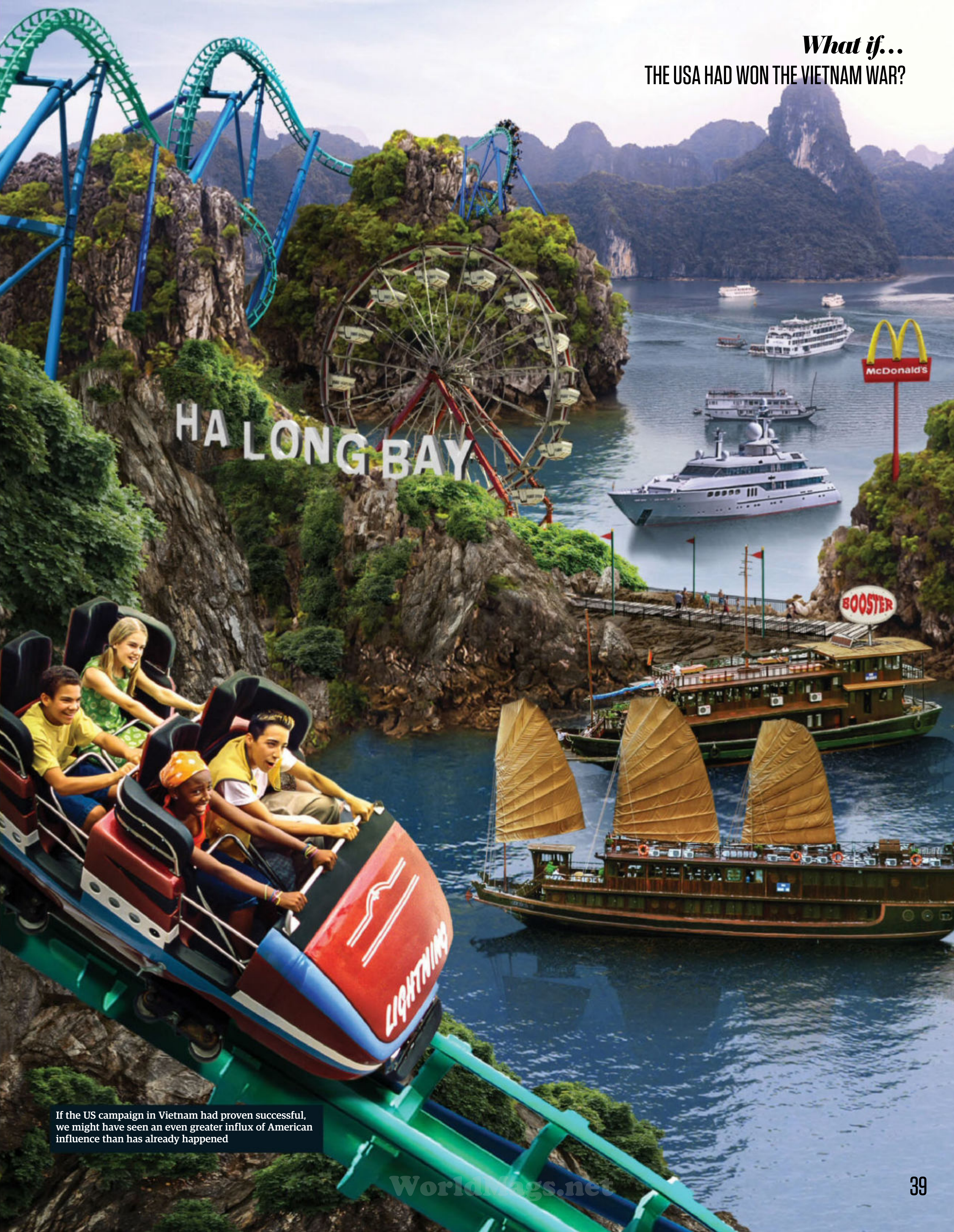
Dr Andrew Wiest currently lectures at the University of Southern Mississippi and is the founding director of the Dale Centre for War and Society. His books include *The Boys Of '67: Charlie Company's War In Vietnam*, *Vietnam's Forgotten Army: Heroism And Betrayal In The ARVN* and *Vietnam: A View From The Front Lines*. He has also organised trips for Vietnam veterans suffering from PTSD, to visit the country they once fought in. Wiest has developed a 'study abroad' programme for US students wishing to soak up Saigon or Hanoi.

What would have happened if the United States had won the Vietnam War?
There are a lot of academics and historians who look at Vietnam as a part of something much bigger – namely the Cold War. So if the US had won, the Cold War would probably have ended a little sooner and the dawn of that unilateral superpower controlling things would have come quicker. In Southeast Asia, everything would be radically different – including a faster and more thorough confrontation between the USA and China. I doubt China would have sat by and let an American victory happen without repercussion – even though they were not exactly fans of the Vietnamese either. I don't think Beijing would have invaded Vietnam to repel the Americans, as they did in Korea, but it certainly would have been the USA against China and Russia. And it would have been a war that was not just cold but glacial. American politics would certainly have been more tumultuous as well. If you look at the US presidential elections since the 1960s – every one of them has been fought over Vietnam to one extent or another. It is still the most controversial aspect of a controversial time period. Had they come out of that smiling, with another greatest generation on their hands, US politics would have looked quite different. For instance, it is hard to see the Republican revolution taking place. Republicans typically have an aggressive foreign policy, it is one of their tropes, but if Democratic policy had won in Vietnam – because it was the Democrats who started the war in Southeast Asia – that would have taken a lot of heat away from their rivals.

Would they have become involved in more conflicts?
Yes, I think the USA would have been much less gun-shy during the 1970s and 1980s. Reagan tinkered with it but that use of force to solve conflicts didn't really come back until the first Bush and then with Bill Clinton. The reason the US did not rely on its military, on any great scale at least, to solve problems during the 1970s and the 1980s was all down to the country's failure in Vietnam.

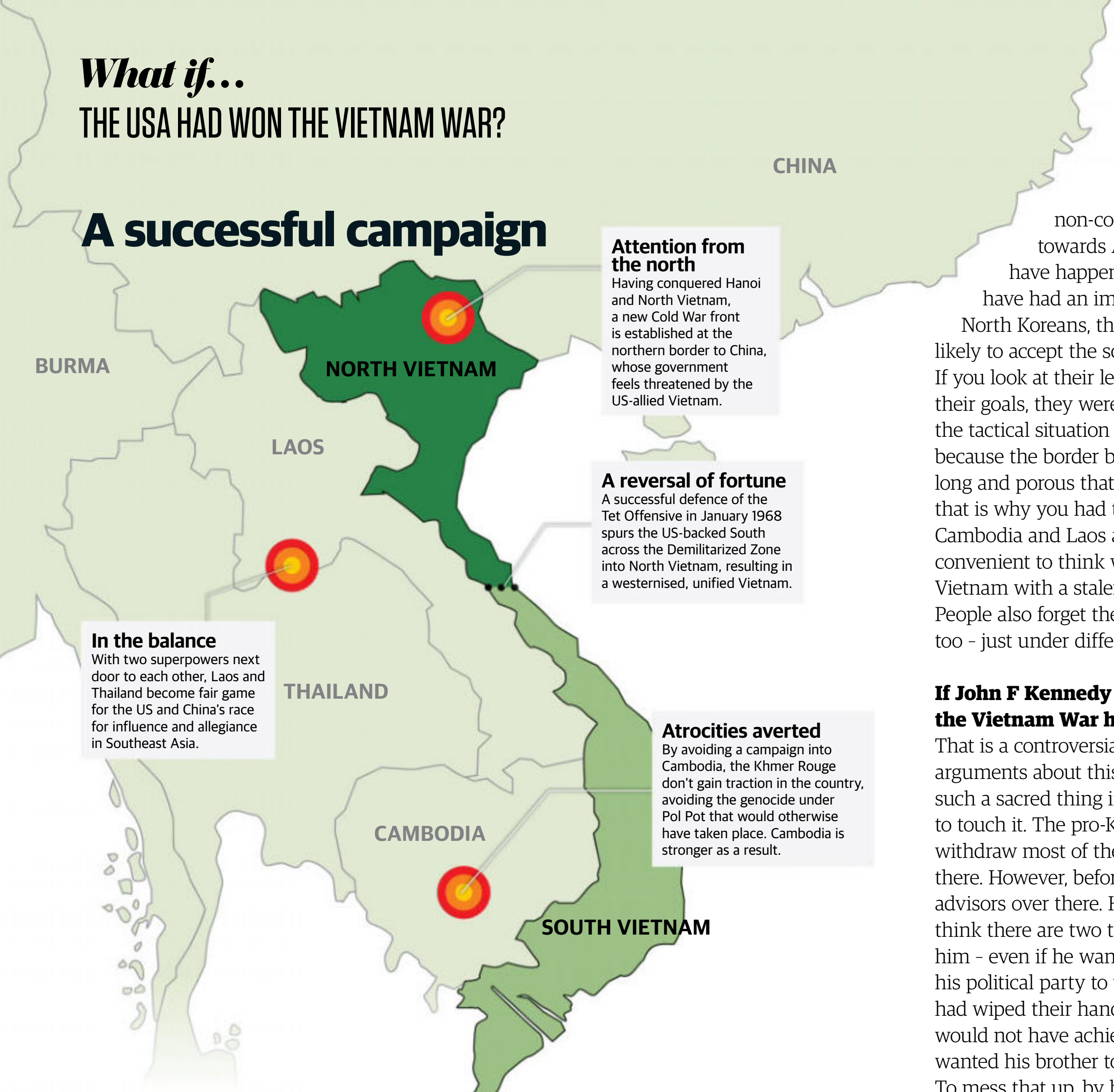
When the Vietnam War began to cross into Cambodia it created the environment in which Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge came to power. What resulted was a four-year holocaust. Could this have been avoided?
If the USA was ever going to win the Vietnam War it would have been during the Tet Offensive of 1968. That was the turning point and that was when the public, back in the United States, saw the North Vietnamese were not just going to retreat and surrender – it was literally a fight to the death. Of course, there was no big, magical American victory during Tet, but let's imagine there was. Let's imagine the US had repelled that attack quickly and conclusively and the war was essentially over as a result. At that point in time, the Khmer Rouge was not a big player in the conflict. It is only after the US began its military incursions into Cambodia and the government in that country began to fall that everything became out of hand. A victorious USA in Vietnam would not have required any entrance into Cambodia and, as a result, you almost certainly would not have seen the rise of the Khmer Rouge. They are intrinsically tied to how the Vietnam War progressed, no doubt about that.

Would we ever have seen a situation like in Korea where the communist North and the democratic South are split down the middle, even to this day?
No, that was never going to happen. One side was going to reunify the country, no matter what. So if there was a big American victory, one situation you have is reunification under


HA LONG BAY
McDonald's
BOOSTER
LIGHTNING

If the US campaign in Vietnam had proven successful, we might have seen an even greater influx of American influence than has already happened

A successful campaign



Attention from the north
Having conquered Hanoi and North Vietnam, a new Cold War front is established at the northern border to China, whose government feels threatened by the US-allied Vietnam.

A reversal of fortune
A successful defence of the Tet Offensive in January 1968 spurs the US-backed South across the Demilitarized Zone into North Vietnam, resulting in a westernised, unified Vietnam.

In the balance
With two superpowers next door to each other, Laos and Thailand become fair game for the US and China's race for influence and allegiance in Southeast Asia.

Atrocities averted
By avoiding a campaign into Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge don't gain traction in the country, avoiding the genocide under Pol Pot that would otherwise have taken place. Cambodia is stronger as a result.

non-communist rule. As a result of that, the turn towards Asia the USA is presently taking would have happened then as opposed to now. We would have had an immediate conflict with China. Unlike the North Koreans, the North Vietnamese were much less likely to accept the scenario where the country remained split. If you look at their leadership, and their pronouncements and their goals, they were not going to go for a 'tie'. In addition, the tactical situation in Vietnam was much trickier. This is because the border between North and South Vietnam is so long and porous that it would be very difficult to police - and that is why you had the Ho Chi Minh trail, the excursions into Cambodia and Laos and all of that other stuff. So it might be convenient to think we could replay the Korean War and end Vietnam with a stalemate, but that was never going to happen. People also forget the South Vietnamese wanted reunification too - just under different circumstances.

If John F Kennedy had not been assassinated, would the Vietnam War have been avoided?
That is a controversial question. There have been so many arguments about this - and, of course, Kennedy's legacy is such a sacred thing in the States that it is political kryptonite to touch it. The pro-Kennedy forces argue he wanted to withdraw most of the 16,000 military advisors that were over there. However, before Kennedy there were only 600 military advisors over there. He had begun a war over there and I think there are two things that still would have hamstrung him - even if he wanted out. The first is that he still wanted his political party to win another term, and if the Democrats had wiped their hands of Vietnam there is a good chance they would not have achieved that. The second is that Kennedy wanted his brother to be the next man in the White House. To mess that up, by handing Vietnam to the communists, would have sunk this. I would also argue that Robert McNamara, who was Kennedy's confidant in the first place, and the architect of the Vietnam War, was going to give him the same advice he gave Lyndon B Johnson - which was to go in with all guns blazing. You have to remember that both

> "If the USA was ever going to win the Vietnam War it would have been during the Tet Offensive of 1968"

How would it be different?

Real timeline

1945

Vietnamese Declaration of Independence
Based on the American Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh asks the USA and the West to oppose French colonial rule in Vietnam and support what will be "a free and independent country."
2 September 1945

Ho Chi Minh contacts President Truman
The Vietnamese revolutionary writes to Truman asking him to "urgently interfere" in the foreign rule of his country. Truman fears Vietnam becoming communist and instead backs the French.
28 February 1946

Real timeline

The Geneva Conference
France agrees to the decolonisation of Vietnam. Free elections are promised, but the USA suspects communist Ho Chi Minh may win. It installs a brutal dictator, Ngô Đình Diêm, in South Vietnam. He is viewed by Ho Chi Minh and the North as a puppet ruler.
21 July 1954

Assassination of Đình Diêm
Diêm - whose anti-Buddhist policies famously caused the monk Thích Quang Đúc to light himself on fire - is murdered in a brutal but mysterious coup d'état.
2 November 1963

Alternative timeline

USA reunites Korea
Fears that China would support the North prove unfounded. The USA manages to push back the comparatively minimal army of Kim Il-sung and successfully reunites the two Koreas. Seoul aligns itself as a Western-friendly government.
27 July 1953

A man suspected of supporting the Viet Cong forces being arrested and detained by US forces

A convoy of US tanks in Vietnam

Kennedy and Johnson faced the post-World War II consensus: to fight a difficult, problematic and long war against what they perceived as a communist threat or to embark on social changes back home - in particular the civil-rights movement. I believe Kennedy was also going to veer toward the civil-rights movement - just as Johnson did. But I don't think you get both - civil rights and the end of Vietnam. That mixture would have brought the Democrats down at the voting booth.

Is there any way you can see that the Vietnam War may have been avoided?

Asking anyone to do the right thing back then was difficult. Had Franklin Roosevelt lived, maybe things could have been avoided. He had a guy on his team who was a communist, namely Stalin, and Roosevelt was not a fan of European colonialism. So he may have sided with Ho Chi Minh's desire to have an independent Vietnam, free from French rule. Had he lived longer, with all of his clout, I think that is the best chance we would have had to avoid starting a war out there.

Vietnam is now awash with KFC restaurants, Coca-Cola, multiplexes and other instances of American pop culture. So who really won the war?

Well, that is the thing - they are now America's staunch allies. It shows that - first of all, as Sun Tzu said, the best tool to win a war is not always the military. It was American culture that eventually prevailed. If you look at things like Rambo and all these other Hollywood movies that attempted to justify the conflict, it is obvious how much impact it had on the USA. But it was just a blip on the radar to the Vietnamese. It cost them many more lives, but it was all part of a bigger struggle to independence. Today, Vietnam has a huge young generation and this is all ancient history to them. They have moved on, but ironically it is the face of the USA they now buy into.

Have your say

Do you agree with our expert's view?

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Gulf of Tomkin fabrication
North Vietnamese ships are reported to have fired on a US patroller, The Maddox, in the South China Sea. President Johnson uses the event to justify going to war. Declassified documents later confirmed that no attack happened. **2 August 1964**

The My Lai Massacre
At My Lai, families are raped, tortured and killed by US soldiers. Lieutenant William Calley, who instigated the horror, walks free, but world opinion becomes opposed to 'America's war.'
16 March 1968

Paris Peace Accords
Nixon's government agrees to a cease-fire, with US ground troops and POWs returning home. The reunification of Vietnam is now a matter between the respective Saigon and Hanoi governments.
27 January 1973

Fall of Saigon
The war ends with the North Vietnamese taking Saigon by force and celebrating a reunified country. Ho Chi Minh, who died in 1969, remains a national icon. Saigon is now known as Ho Chi Minh City.
30 April 1975

Tet Offensive
On Vietnamese New Year, the North surprises the South with a sudden offensive. The city of Huê is hit with extensive fighting. South Vietnam and its allies suffer drastic losses.
30 January - 3 March 1968

Ho Chi Minh at the UN
Ho Chi Minh, gives a rousing speech at the UN. But with the new Korea becoming an international trading partner, Western nations side with the USA on Vietnamese reunification. **December 1956**

Gulf of Tomkin fabrication
Johnson, respecting Kennedy's opposition to communism in Asia and Latin America, fabricates the Gulf of Tomkin incident to justify war in Vietnam.
2 August 1964

Failed Tet Offensive
The North Vietnamese conduct a failed attempt to take Saigon, Huê and other cities in South Vietnam. Forewarned about the attack, the US Army quickly repels their enemies.
30 January - 14 February 1968

Free elections
Pressured into elections, US fears come true and Ho Chi Minh becomes president of Vietnam. However, believing this would sustain the South Vietnamese to communist rule, the Eisenhower government argues the elections were fixed.
January 1956

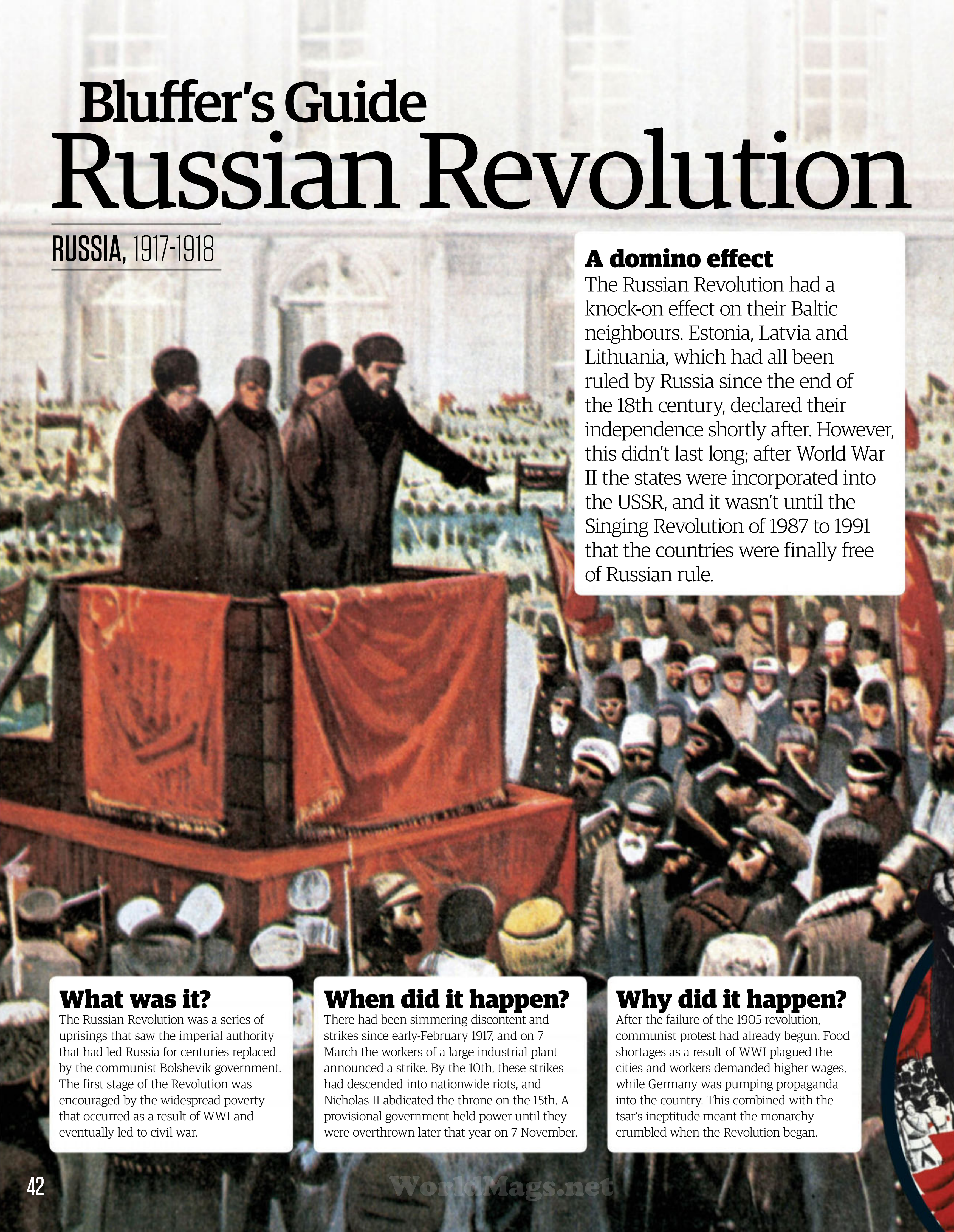
Fixed elections?
President Eisenhower releases a statement claiming that, "after extensive CIA investigation we can reveal the elections in Vietnam were rigged." South Vietnam is to continue with a 'democratic' regime headed by an interim coalition of allied countries. **March 1956**

Kennedy's speech
Concluding upon how close the world came to nuclear meltdown during the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy affirms that all communist countries must be treated as rogue states. Military involvement is increased heavily in Vietnam.
October 1962

Cambodia's involvement
The White House offers to supply Cambodia's Communist Party of Kampuchea guerrilla fighters in aid and arms if they can offer the US details of the Ho Chi Minh trail supply route. The deal is only revealed decades later.
August 1967

Fall of Hanoi
On Ho Chi Minh's birthday, the North Vietnam capital collapses under the military might of the US army. The war is over. China becomes so concerned that Mao immediately agrees to a trade pact with Coca-Cola.
19 May 1968

© Daniel Sinoca; Dreamstime



Bluffer's Guide
Russian Revolution

RUSSIA, 1917-1918

A domino effect

The Russian Revolution had a knock-on effect on their Baltic neighbours. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which had all been ruled by Russia since the end of the 18th century, declared their independence shortly after. However, this didn't last long; after World War II the states were incorporated into the USSR, and it wasn't until the Singing Revolution of 1987 to 1991 that the countries were finally free of Russian rule.

What was it?

The Russian Revolution was a series of uprisings that saw the imperial authority that had led Russia for centuries replaced by the communist Bolshevik government. The first stage of the Revolution was encouraged by the widespread poverty that occurred as a result of WWI and eventually led to civil war.

When did it happen?

There had been simmering discontent and strikes since early-February 1917, and on 7 March the workers of a large industrial plant announced a strike. By the 10th, these strikes had descended into nationwide riots, and Nicholas II abdicated the throne on the 15th. A provisional government held power until they were overthrown later that year on 7 November.

Why did it happen?

After the failure of the 1905 revolution, communist protest had already begun. Food shortages as a result of WWI plagued the cities and workers demanded higher wages, while Germany was pumping propaganda into the country. This combined with the tsar's ineptitude meant the monarchy crumbled when the Revolution began.

Over a thousand people lost their lives in the February Revolution

Military mutiny

As the riots became more violent, troops of the Petrograd army garrison assembled onto the streets. The soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators, killing many of them, but the protestors continued to stream into the streets. Many of the soldiers began to sympathise with the protestors, military insubordination spread and the wave of revolution became impossible to stop.

The legend of the surviving Romanov

After the slaughter of Tsar Nicholas II and his family, rumours began to emerge that his youngest daughter, Anastasia, had survived. Multiple 'Anastasias' cropped up, all claiming to be the missing daughter, all with tales of their escape. These claims have now been proven false, as her body was later discovered in a mass grave with her family members.

Failure of the Duma

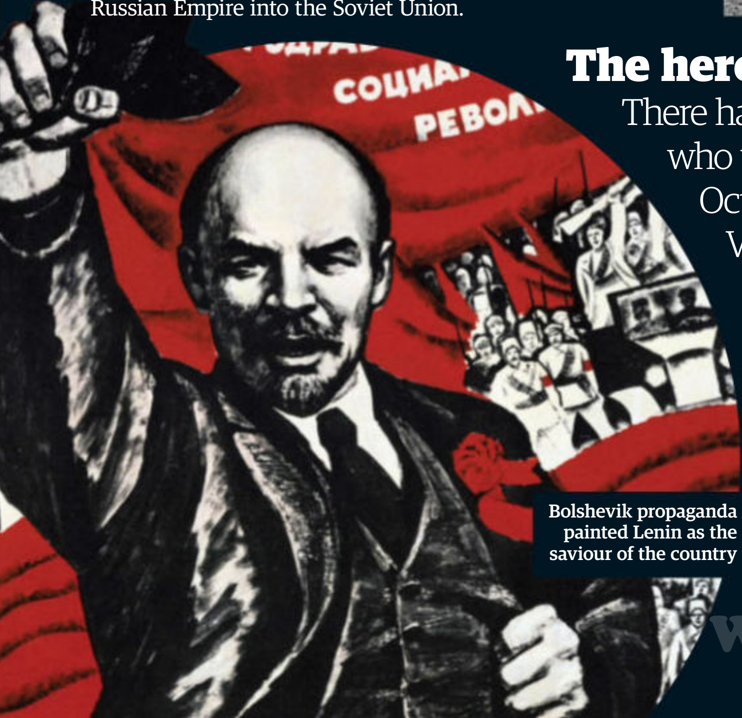
The provisional government put in place was headed by moderate bourgeois members who had little in common with the Russian population. They failed to address two pressing points of unrest - Russian involvement in World War I and redistribution of land. This general discontent with the government meant the Bolsheviks were able to seize power in a virtually bloodless coup.

Red vs White

The October Revolution wasn't supported by all the population, and in 1918 a civil war broke out between the Bolshevik Red Army and the Whites - bourgeoisie against the Bolsheviks. Although the Whites had international backing, the Reds had internal support and managed to defeat their opposition, consolidating the remaining Russian Empire into the Soviet Union.

A royal massacre

On 17 July 1918 the Romanov family and three of their servants were led down to the basement of the house where they were imprisoned and then shot. The emperor was the first to die while three of the girls had to be run through with bayonets as the precious jewels sewn into their dresses deflected the bullets.



Bolshevik propaganda painted Lenin as the saviour of the country

The hero of the revolution

There have been multiple arguments over who was the true mastermind behind the October Revolution. Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin led the uprising based on his Marxist ideas, but he was absent during the takeover of the Winter Palace, which was organised by Leon Trotsky. Joseph Stalin would later be painted as Lenin's right-hand man, but he didn't take part in storming the palace either.

Key figures

Nicholas II
1868-1918
The reluctant emperor's disastrous leadership caused Russia to go from a world power to near economic collapse.

Vladimir Lenin
1870-1924
Leader of the Bolshevik Party, Lenin helped to mastermind the overthrow of the government.

Leon Trotsky
1879-1940
An influential member of the Bolsheviks, Trotsky founded and led the Red Army, which went on to win the Russian Civil War.

Alexander Kerensky
1881-1970
Kerensky became the prime minister of the Russian provisional government until it was overthrown.

Grigori Rasputin
1869-1916
This mystical faith healer's influence on the monarchy was loathed by the nation and contributed to their downfall.

Key events

Bloody Sunday
22 January 1905
About 1,000 unarmed protestors are killed when they are fired on by soldiers of the Imperial Guard.

1905 Revolution
22 January 1905 - 16 June 1907
A wave of mass unrest sweeps across the Russian Empire. Although the revolutionaries are defeated the state Duma are put in place.

World War I
1914-1918
The staggering Russian losses and military defeats lead to low morale and devastate the Russian economy.

The tsar abdicates
15 March 1917
Nicholas II of Russia abdicates the throne and the following day a provisional government is put in place.

A bloodless coup
7 November 1917
Bolshevik revolutionaries lead an assault on the Winter Palace and overthrow the provisional government seated there.

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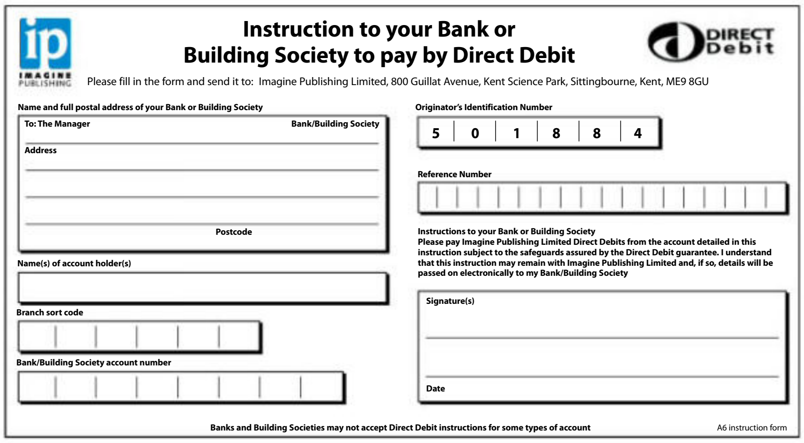

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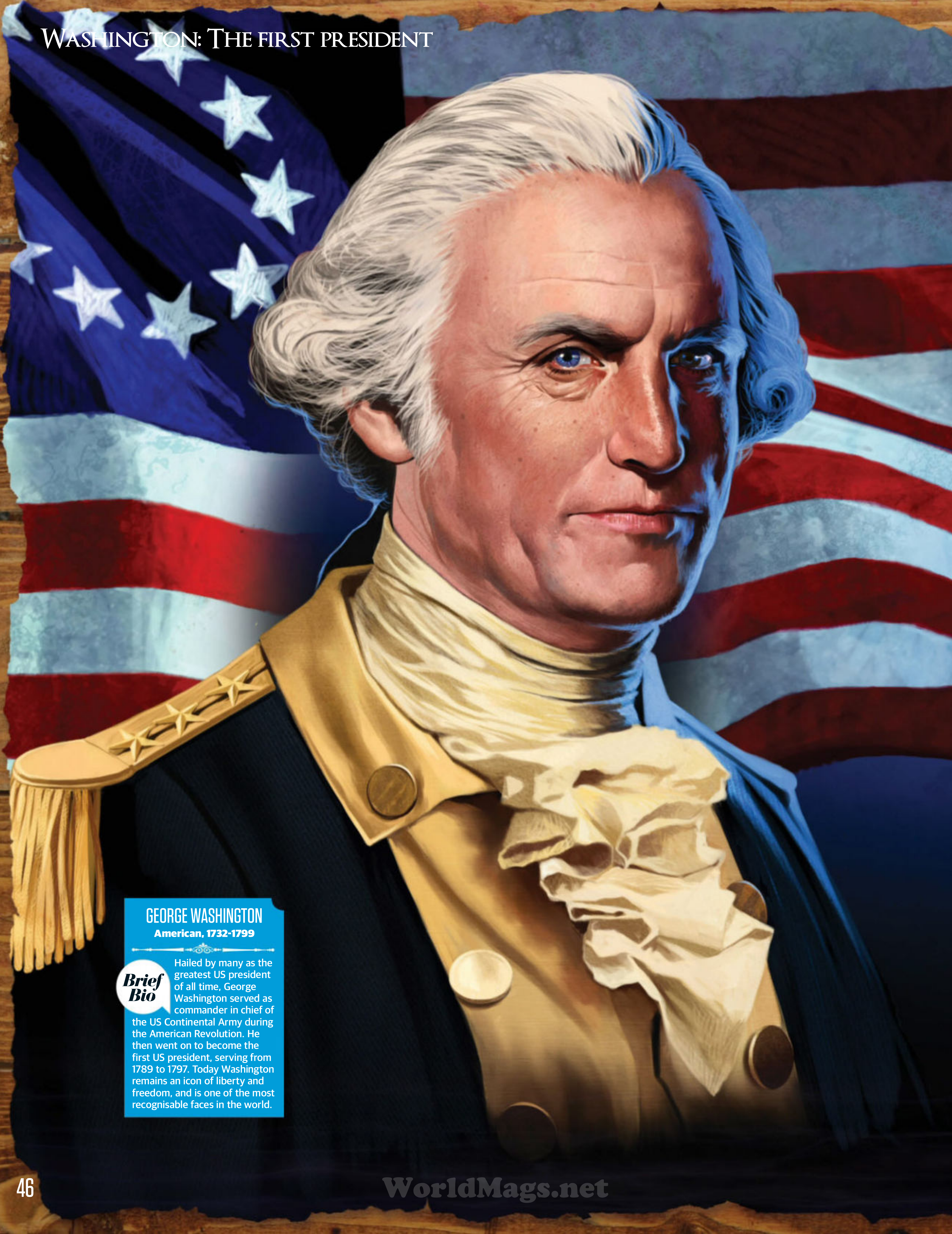


GEORGE WASHINGTON

American, 1732-1799

Brief Bio

Hailed by many as the greatest US president of all time, George Washington served as commander in chief of the US Continental Army during the American Revolution. He then went on to become the first US president, serving from 1789 to 1797. Today Washington remains an icon of liberty and freedom, and is one of the most recognisable faces in the world.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

Today George Washington is hailed as the father of the USA, but his journey to legendary hero was a perilous and difficult one

Written by Frances White

In his final will Washington freed all his slaves

Long Island was supposed to be a success. The enemy was stronger and greater in number but the rebels had got there first. The commander had prepared everything for his foe's arrival in New York, strengthening his batteries and placing his generals perfectly. But the British had broken through. First Sullivan fell, then Stirling, and the commander could only watch as the lives of his brave men were brutally wiped away. Knowing all was lost he ordered his men to retreat before the carnage could reach them. As relentless rain pelted down he used the cover of darkness to help conceal his soldiers as they climbed into every available boat he could get his hands on. He waited until the last man was on board before he boarded himself. As the boat drew away the commander looked back through the thick fog that had descended over the bay. The mist had concealed them from the British, his men were safe, but Brooklyn had been lost.

This is not the story of a failed general, forgotten by the history books, but instead that of the most glorified and worshipped president in US history - George Washington. Just as his men were hidden by the fog that grim morning in Brooklyn, today Washington himself is cloaked and obscured by layers of myths and legends. He has become an almost messianic figure in the United States, a legend of justice and freedom, a brilliant commander who led his underdog army to the greatest victory in US history. But as with most legends, the stories are not always true. Far from being a brilliant military strategist, Washington actually lost more battles than he won. He was no Alexander or Caesar, but an entirely different kind of hero altogether - one who persevered in the face of devastating failure for his men and country.

Making History

3 reasons why Washington is considered the USA's greatest leader

1 Virtue

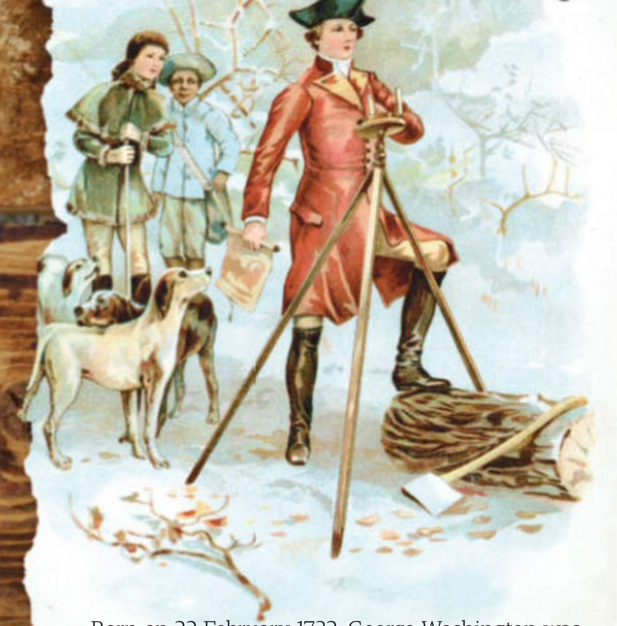
Washington twice gave up the chance of ultimate power. First at the end of the Revolutionary War when he surrendered his role as commander in chief, and again when he refused to rule as president for a third term. When George III was presented with the idea of Washington doing this, he said, "If he does that he will be the greatest man in the world."

2 Commitment to country

Washington did not become involved in the hostile arguments and squabbling of political debates, but instead acted as a peacekeeper between the groups. A true non-partisan, his primary aim was always the betterment of the country, rather than any personal gain.

3 Persistence

Washington was not the most gifted military leader; he suffered multiple losses and personal humiliations, but his determination to persevere in spite of repeated setbacks inspired his soldiers to do the same, which resulted in him creating one of the most celebrated underdog success stories in world history.



Born on 22 February 1732, George Washington was the son of a slave-owning tobacco planter. George received a mixed education from a variety of tutors, and plans for him to join the British Royal Navy were cut short when his mother objected. Fate instead led Washington to become a surveyor, and he travelled for two years surveying land in the Culpeper, Frederick and Augusta counties. This position began a lifelong interest in landholdings, and he purchased his first piece of land as soon as his sizable income filled his pockets. And when his older brother died in 1752, Washington inherited not only his father's vast lands, but also the position of major in the Virginia militia.

It would not be long until Washington's natural leadership and drive would send him straight into the heat of battle. At a staggering 188 centimetres (6'2") tall, the young man towered above his contemporaries, and Virginia's Lieutenant General Robert Dinwiddie saw fit to use his imposing but inspiring nature to try to persuade the French to remove themselves from land claimed by Britain. When they refused, Washington returned with a small force and attacked the French post at Fort Duquesne, killing the commander and nine men and taking the others as prisoners, all in 15 minutes. The event had huge international implications, and Great Britain and France began to pump forces into North America – The French and Indian War had begun. In a matter of minutes the name Washington became synonymous with three things – bravery, daring and recklessness.

Washington was rewarded for his quick thinking by being appointed commander in chief and colonel of the Virginia Regiment, the first full-time American military unit. With command of a thousand soldiers, Washington was tasked with defending Virginia's frontier, and he demonstrated his resolve and forthright approach as his unit engaged in 20 battles over 12 months. But his reckless attitude and inexperience was demonstrated when his unit exchanged friendly fire with another British force, killing 14 men.

> "He was no Alexander or Caesar, but an entirely different kind of hero altogether"

His time commanding an army had taught Washington many things – how to bring the best out of his men, the importance of stamina and bravery, as well as discipline and training. It had also given him valuable insight into the British military tactics, and his struggles in dealing with government officials convinced him that a national government was the only way forward. However, when Washington retired from service in 1758, as far as he was concerned his time on the battlefield was over.

In 1759 Washington married the intelligent and wealthy Martha Dandridge Custis and together with her two children they moved to the plantation of Mount Vernon. Enjoying the newly inherited wealth from his marriage, Washington was now one of Virginia's wealthiest men and he concentrated on expanding and making the most out of his plantation. Little did he know that revolution was bubbling, and soon he would find himself back on the battlefield in what would become the most famous war in American history.

Washington wasn't the most likely of revolutionary leaders; although he opposed the controversial Stamp Act of 1765, during the early stirrings of revolution he was actually opposed to the colonies declaring independence. It wasn't until the passing of the Townshend acts of 1767 that he took an active role in the resistance. In an act of rebellion he encouraged the people of Virginia to boycott English goods until the acts were repealed. However, when the Intolerable acts were passed in 1774, Washington decided that more forthright action needed to be taken.

Passionate and charismatic, Washington was an obvious choice to attend the First Continental Congress. Although the delegates appealed to the crown to revoke the intolerable acts, they didn't even make a dink in the steely British armour, and a Second Continental Congress was called the following year.

A lot had changed in a year, and Washington too had undergone something of a transformation. The battles at Lexington and Concord had shown the colonies that they were capable of taking on the might of the British, and when Washington arrived in Pennsylvania for the state meeting dressed head to toe in military gear, it sent a strong message: he was prepared for war. So was Congress. It formed

The March To Revolution

Follow the path leading to the greatest war in American history

★ 1754-1763 ★

French and Indian War
The French and Indian War was part of a much longer conflict between Great Britain and France, known as the Seven Years War. The war was fought in the north of North America between the colonies of the two powers, ending with France losing its territory in North America. However, funding the war created a huge national debt in Britain and gave France a good reason to support American independence.

★ 1765 ★

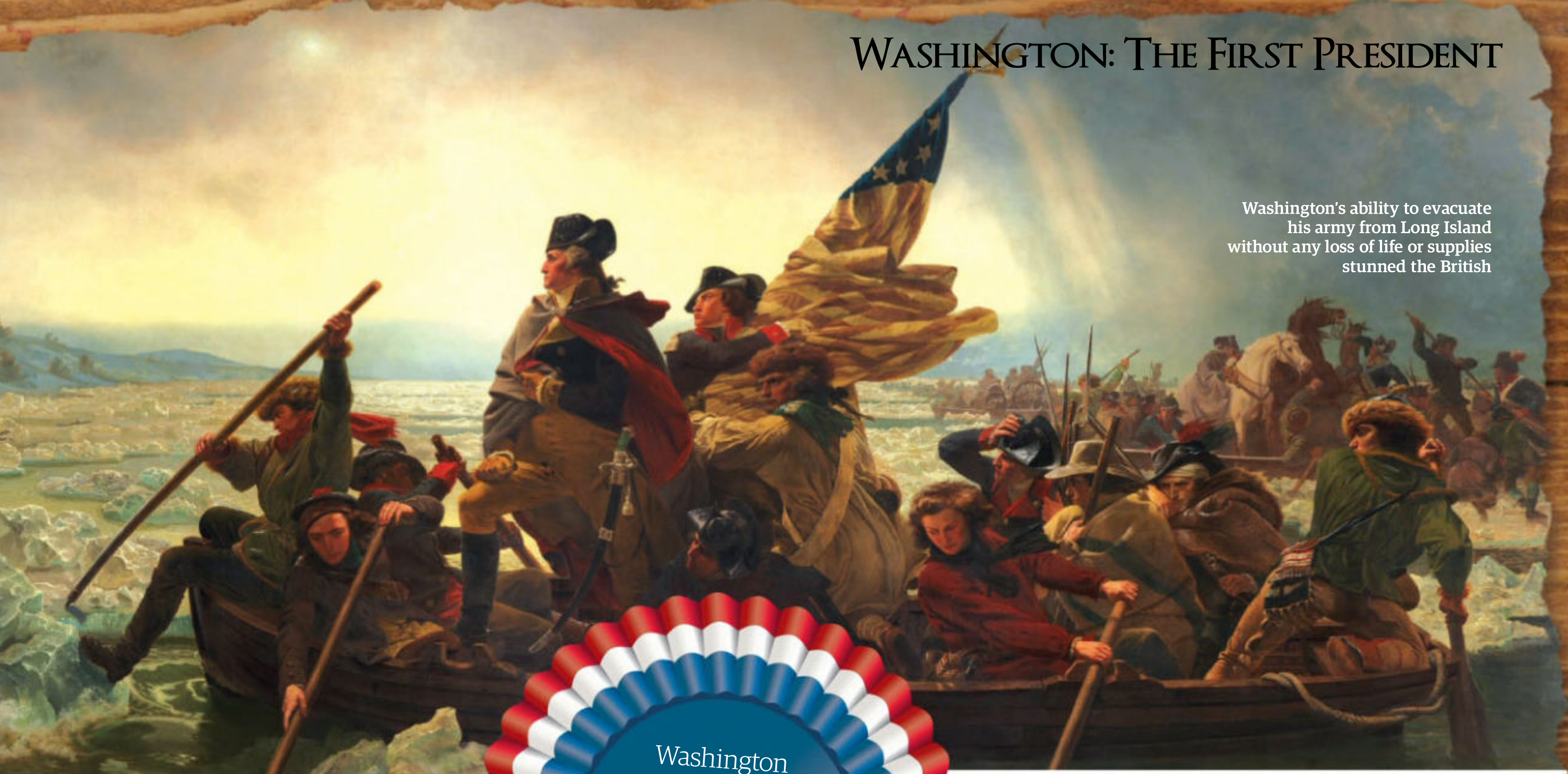
Stamp Act
The resulting national debt of the Seven Years War in Britain had reached £130 million by 1764. Britain also needed a way to pay for its army in North America and decided the colonies should subsidise it. The Stamp Act forced citizens to pay taxes on documents and paper goods and was immediately unpopular as it was carried out without any consent. The outrage soon turned violent and the tax was never collected.

★ 1767-1770 ★

Townshend Acts
The Townshend Acts were a series of acts passed by the British Parliament upon the colonies in North America. These acts placed duties on vital, high-volume imported items such as glass, paints, paper and tea, among other things. The money raised was intended to pay to keep governors and judges loyal, and also to set a general precedent that the British had the right to tax the American colonies.

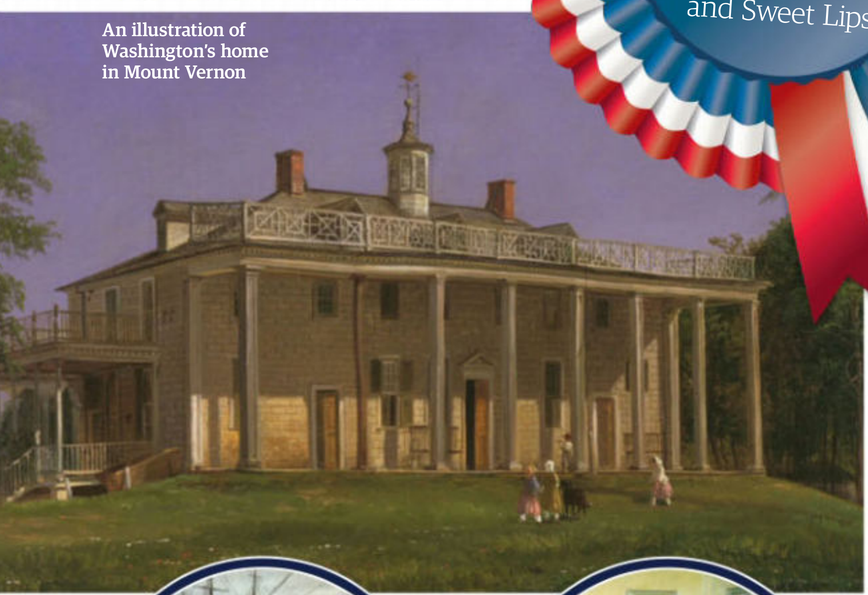
★ 1770 ★

Boston Massacre
This incident occurred when a heckling crowd gathered around a British guard, who was quickly joined by eight more British soldiers. The soldiers fired at the crowd, killing three people and wounding multiple others. Two more later died of their wounds. The soldiers were arrested for manslaughter but were released without charge. This event helped to create an immensely anti-British sentiment in the colonies.

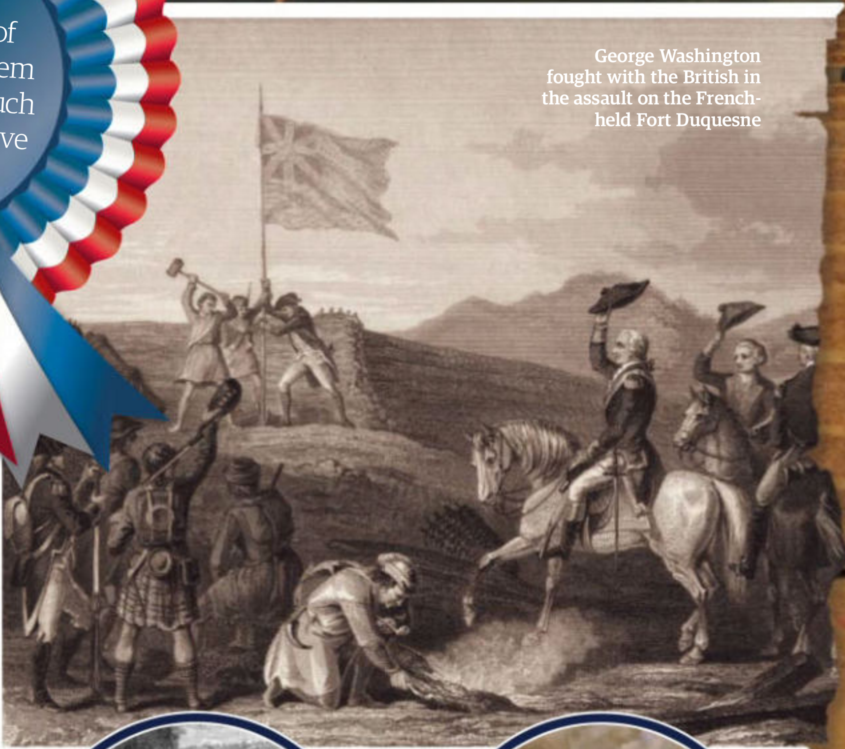


Washington's ability to evacuate his army from Long Island without any loss of life or supplies stunned the British

Washington was very fond of dogs and gave them unusual names such as Tarter, True Love and Sweet Lips



An illustration of Washington's home in Mount Vernon



George Washington fought with the British in the assault on the French-held Fort Duquesne

1773

Boston Tea Party

In an effort to force the colonies to accept the Townshend duty on Tea, Britain passed the Tea Act, allowing the East India Company to ship its tea to North America. In defiance, protestors boarded the ships and threw chests full of tea into Boston Harbour. Parliament responded harshly, by passing the Intolerable Acts, which took away the rights of the state of Massachusetts to govern itself.

1774

First Continental Congress

Delegates from 12 of the 13 British colonies in America met at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia to discuss ways to halt the Intolerable Acts. They made plans to refuse to import British goods until their grievances were met. When these efforts proved unsuccessful, a Second Continental Congress was held the next year to prepare the country for the impending American Revolutionary War.

1775

The Battles of Lexington and Concord

When American intelligence learned that British troops planned to march on Concord, they were quick to assemble their forces and take up arms against them. However only 77 militiamen faced 700 British at Lexington and were quickly defeated. The British continued to Concord to search for arms, but they were forced back by 500 militiamen, winning the colonies their first war victory.

1775

Battle of Bunker Hill

Set during the Siege of Boston, this battle saw the British mount an attack against the colonial troops stationed in Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. Although the British were victorious, the heavy losses suffered by the redcoats led it to be a hollow victory, and it proved the Americans could hold their own against their foes in battle. Shortly after the conflict, King George III officially declared the colonies to be in a state of rebellion.

the Continental Army on 14 June 1775 and it needed a leader. Reluctant and somewhat modest, Washington did not see himself as a leader capable of leading such a vitally important force, but for those around him there was no other choice. With proven military experience, a devoted patriot and a strong, commanding presence, Washington was appointed commander in chief of the force that would take on the mightiest nation on Earth.

It did not take long for the new commander to prove his worth. In early-March 1776, Washington turned the Siege of Boston around by placing artillery on Dorchester Heights, low hills with a good view of Boston and its harbour. The perfectly placed, powerful cannons forced the British to retreat from the city, and the American commander moved his army into New York City. Even the critical British papers couldn't deny the skills of the captivating and exciting new leader who seemed capable of repelling their great empire with ease.

Victory and gossip aside, in truth Washington was out of his depth. He had commanded men before, but only a force of a thousand soldiers - far from the tens of thousands at his disposal now. He had only fought in frontier warfare, far removed from the open-field battles he now faced. He had never commanded legions of cavalry or artillery - he was constantly learning on the job. Washington had to rely on his own intelligence and courage to have any hope of snatching victory from his seasoned, experienced rivals.

This inexperience manifested itself in the crippling defeat the commander suffered during the Battle of Long Island. In an effort to seize New York, the British general William Howe unleashed a devastating campaign that Washington failed to subdue. So great was the British attack that Washington was forced to retreat his entire army across the East River under cover of darkness. Although this feat itself was remarkable, for the self-critical leader it was a swift and brutal reminder of his own inadequacies as a general, and he quickly realised this war would not be easily won.

But the British had a crippling weakness, too. They were simply too sure they were going to win. Howe so fatally underestimated the will of the American troops and their reckless leader that he left his Hessian soldiers at Trenton, confident the war would be won in the next few months. Washington, on the other hand, was acutely aware of the morale of his soldiers. After the defeat in New York and the humiliating retreat, they needed something positive to inspire them, and Trenton was right there for the taking.

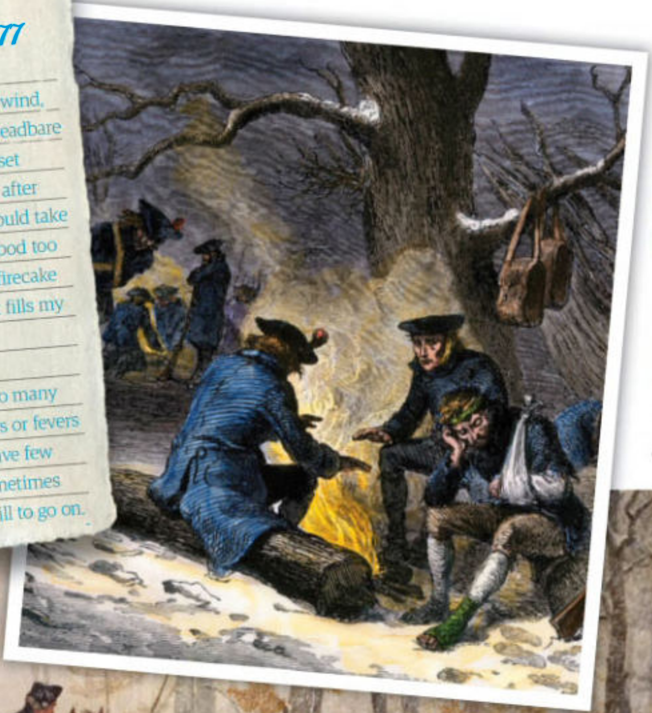
The plan was one only Washington could have thought up - bold, gutsy and downright dangerous, he led his soldiers across the perilous and icy Delaware River on a freezing Boxing Day in 1776. Only 2,400 of his men were able to make it across

Valley Forge

Pennsylvania, 28 January 1777

The cold today was worse than it has ever been. The crowded wooden huts provide shelter from the biting wind, but the cold passes between the slats, through my threadbare shirt and nestles in my bones. My quest to procure a set of shoes continues to be unsuccessful. I thought that after marching through the snow in bare feet someone would take pity on me - but there are no supplies coming. The food too is running low. For the past week I have only eaten firecake - a sticky, bland abomination of water and flour that fills my stomach but leaves the soul ravenous.

I shouldn't complain - I am one of the lucky few untouched by the diseases that ravage the camp. So many men have been plagued by itchy rashes and blisters or fevers that refuse to calm. The only relief here are the brave few women who wash and mend our uniforms, or sometimes simply provide a shoulder to men who have no will to go on.



Rebels

Organisation

There were 35,000 continentals in the United States with 44,500 militia. Their French allies increased their numbers with 12,000 French soldiers in America and 63,000 at Gibraltar. They also had 53 ships in service throughout the war. George Washington was commander in chief and Nathanael Greene served as major general.

Weapons

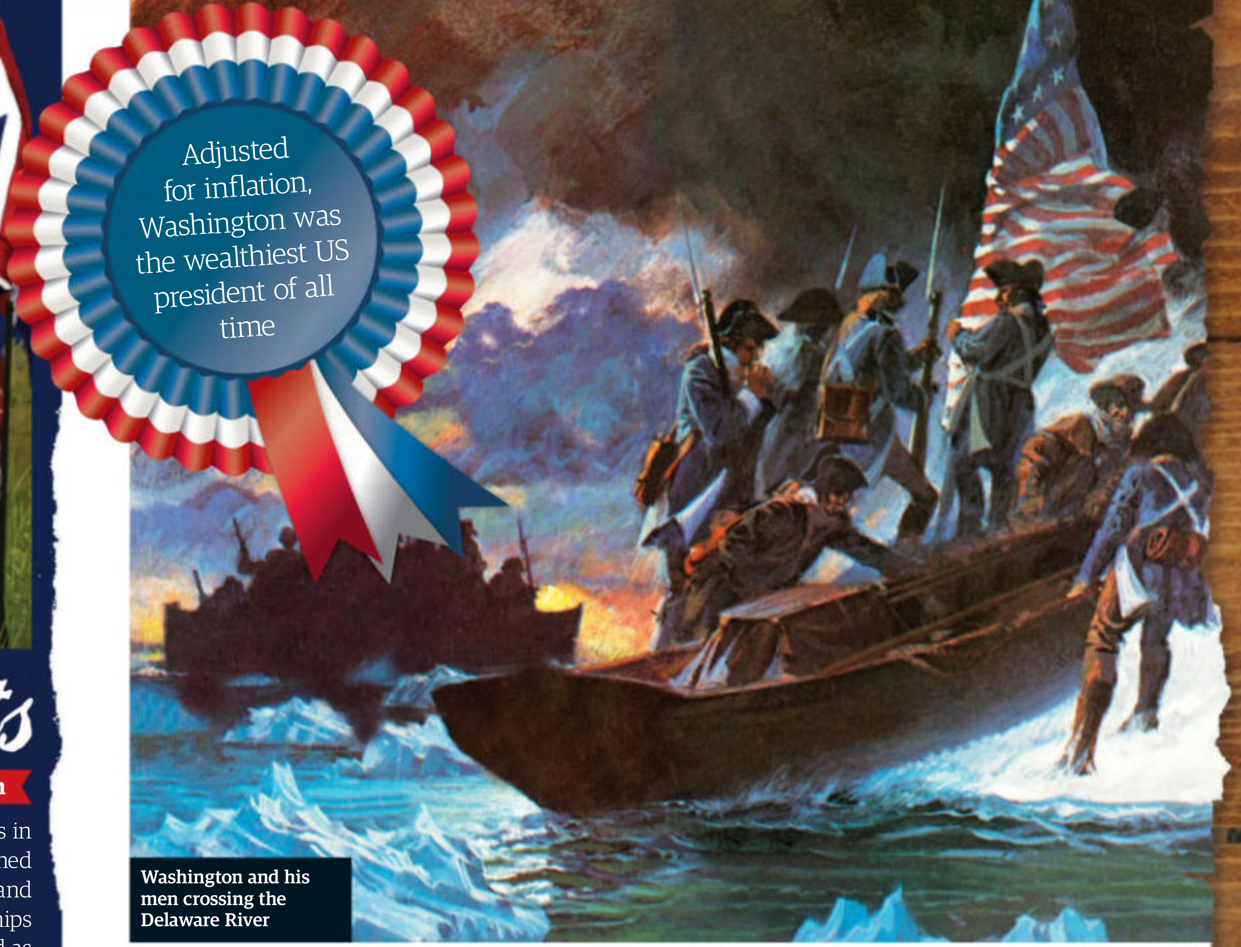
When the war began the colonies did not have a professional standing army of any kind, with many colonies only able to supply minutemen who were required to equip themselves - with most carrying rifles. The army's weapon of choice was the flintlock musket and they also carried bayonets.

Resources

The Continental Army suffered from massive supply issues. Supplies were repeatedly seized by British patrols. They also had to combat a primitive road system, which resulted in regular shortages of food, clothing, ammunition, tents and a host of essential military equipment, constantly pitching the odds against them.

Morale

The rebels' greatest weapon was the belief in their grand cause - fighting for their liberty from the oppressive British Crown. It was this strong morale belief in their cause that encouraged American leaders, who knew they were facing a well equipped and disciplined foe, to push on despite multiple crippling defeats.



Adjusted for inflation, Washington was the wealthiest US president of all time

Washington and his men crossing the Delaware River

without turning back, but it was enough. Completely unprepared for the attack, the Hessians at Trenton were overwhelmed and swiftly defeated by Washington and his men. A few days later the commander led a counter-attack on a British force sent to attack his army at Princeton, achieving another small – but essential – American victory.

> "When Washington retired from service in 1758, as far as he was concerned, his time on the battlefield was over"

Meanwhile, the British redcoats still believed the rebellion could be stopped like a cork in a bottle. Howe thought that by taking control of key colonial cities, the river of rebellion would turn into a drought and the population would surrender to British rule. When Howe set his sights on the revolutionary hub of Philadelphia, Washington rode out to meet him, but, perhaps with his previous victories clouding his judgement, the commander was outmatched and Philadelphia fell to the British. However, the colonists' cause received a major boon when British General Burgoyne was forced to surrender his entire army of 6,300 men at the Battle of Saratoga. It seemed that major world players were finally beginning to believe the Americans had a chance of besting the mighty British Empire, and France openly allied itself with the rebels.

While General Howe concentrated on capturing key cities, Washington had a revelation. Although individual battles were important, the key to victory was not military success, but instead his ability to keep the heart of the resistance alive and pumping. This was something out of British hands and solely in his own.

This spirit of rebellion faced its most challenging obstacle yet over the long winter of 1977. For six long months the soldiers at the military camp of Valley Forge suffered thousands of disease-ridden deaths. With starvation rife and supplies low, many feared the horrendous conditions would force the desperate army to mutiny. Washington himself faced immense criticism from the American public and Congress, who urged him to hurry the war effort, while behind the scenes anti-Washington movements gained ground. Washington simply replied: "Whenever the public gets dissatisfied with my service [...] I shall quit the helm [...] and retire to a private life." The critics soon fell silent.

Although the conditions had been testing, to put it mildly, the soldiers emerged from the

Redcoats

Organisation

There were 56,000 British redcoats in North America along with a combined force of 52,000 loyalists, freed slaves and natives. They also had 78 Royal Navy ships at their service. William Howe served as commander in chief, but there were many decorated generals and officers such as Thomas Gage and Henry Clinton.

Weapons

The British army depended on the .75-calibre flintlock musket popularly known as "Brown Bess." They also carried bayonets and, occasionally, short-barrel muskets. The redcoats also used cannons to great effect, to the degree that if an American unit was without cannon, they would not face a cannon-supported British troop.

Resources

Although British soldiers were better equipped than their American counterparts, they were fighting away from home, and supplies could take months to reach their destinations. Many British had to rely on loyal locals supplying them with food and praying the vital supplies would survive the 4,800km (3,000mi) trip across the ocean.

Morale

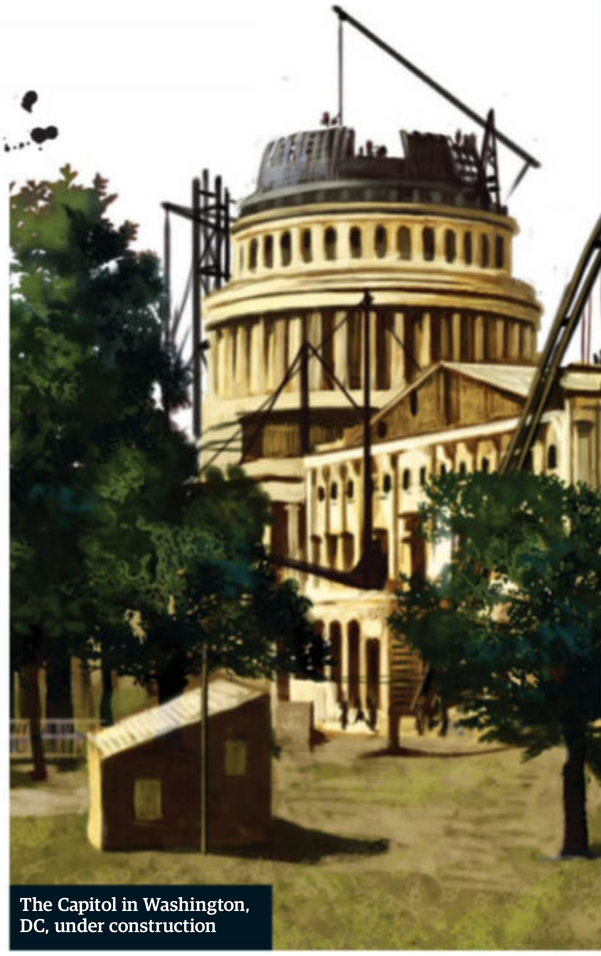
The British believed they could easily steamroll the rebels and this underestimation of their foe cost them dearly. The war was also expensive, and support at home was mixed at best. For many soldiers struggling in terrible conditions away from home, there was little motivation to fight.

winter in good spirits. Washington demonstrated that his sting was stronger than ever when his forces attacked the British flank attempting to leave Monmouth Courthouse. Although the battle ultimately ended in a stalemate, Washington had finally achieved what he set out to do since the beginning of the war – hold his own in a pitched battle. This was massive for the Americans; it proved the growing Continental Army was developing its skills at an alarming speed, and if the horrendous winter they had emerged from had not crushed them, what chance did the British have? The French seemed to share this attitude. On 5 September 1781, 24 French ships emerged victorious against 19 British vessels at the Battle of Chesapeake. The success prevented the British from reinforcing the troops of Lord Cornwallis, who was blockaded in Yorktown, Virginia, and allowed crucial French troops to pour into the Continental Army, bringing vast supplies of artillery with them. This was exactly the opportunity Washington needed, and he didn't plan to let it go to waste.

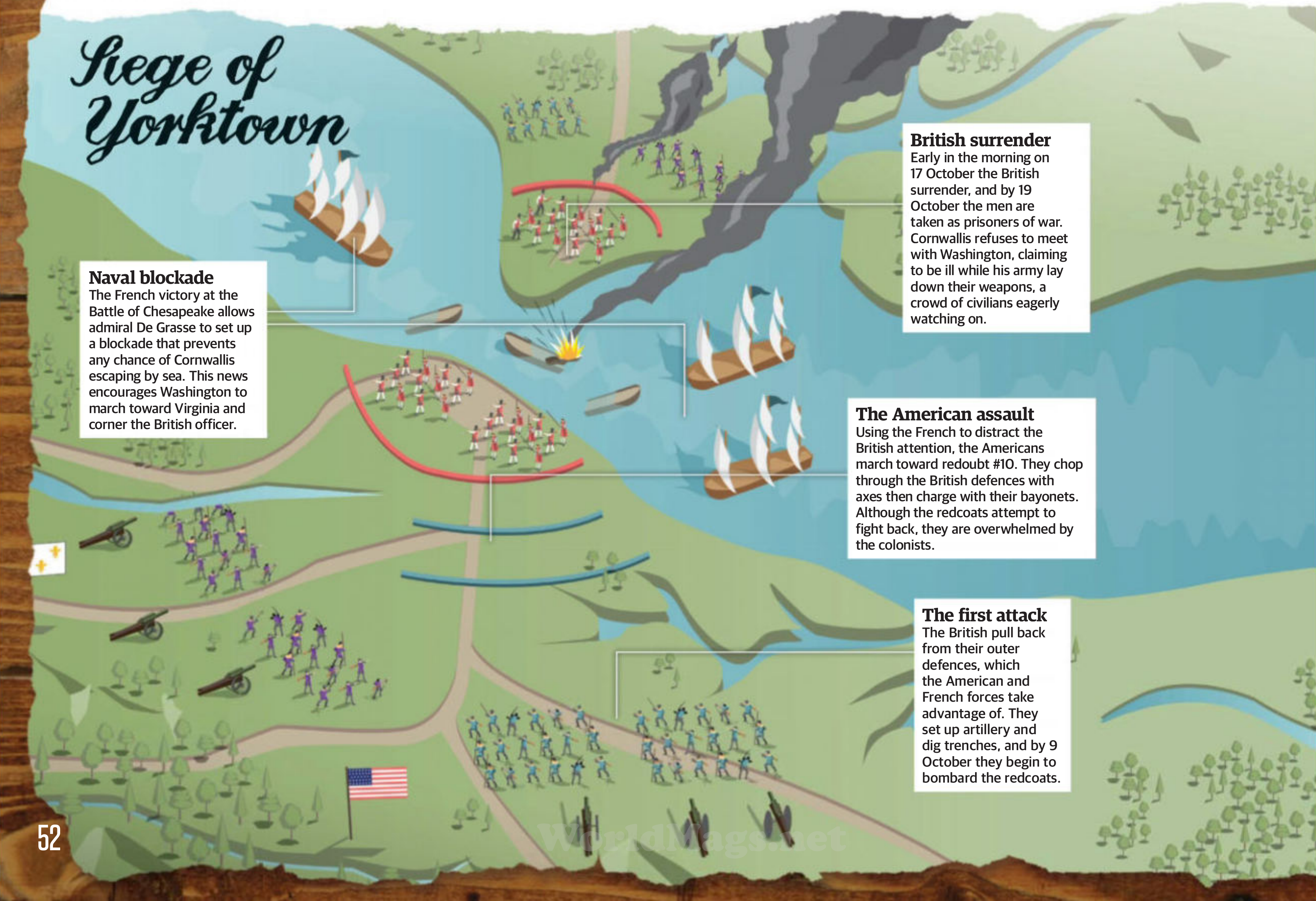
With the British army trapped and exposed, and his own swelling in size, Washington led his men out of Williamsburg and surrounded Yorktown. From late-September the Continental Army moved steadily closer to the redcoats, forcing them to pull back from their outer defences, which left them open for the Americans and French to use. As the colonists began to set up artilleries, the British pelted them with steady fire. In spite of this and at some great risk to himself, Washington continued to visit and motivate his men on the front line, and by 5 October the commander was ready to make his move.

As a vicious storm raged, Washington grasped his pickaxe in his hand and struck several blows into the dirt that would become the new trench the Americans would use to bombard the British. By 5pm on 9 October, the Americans were pelting the British with a relentless stream of cannon fire. The British ships were sunk and soldiers deserted en masse. More American trenches were dug as they gained land, and when Washington's men rushed toward the British redoubt, they overwhelmed the surprised redcoats. As Washington rained artillery fire down on the town, Cornwallis's attempts at escape across the York River were unsuccessful and he finally surrendered.

Little did Washington know that the victory he had secured at Yorktown would lead to the ultimate surrender of British hostilities, the end of the war and ultimately American freedom. On 3 September 1883 the Treaty of Paris was signed between representatives of both countries, which proclaimed that Britain recognised the independence of


The Capitol in Washington, DC, under construction

Siege of Yorktown

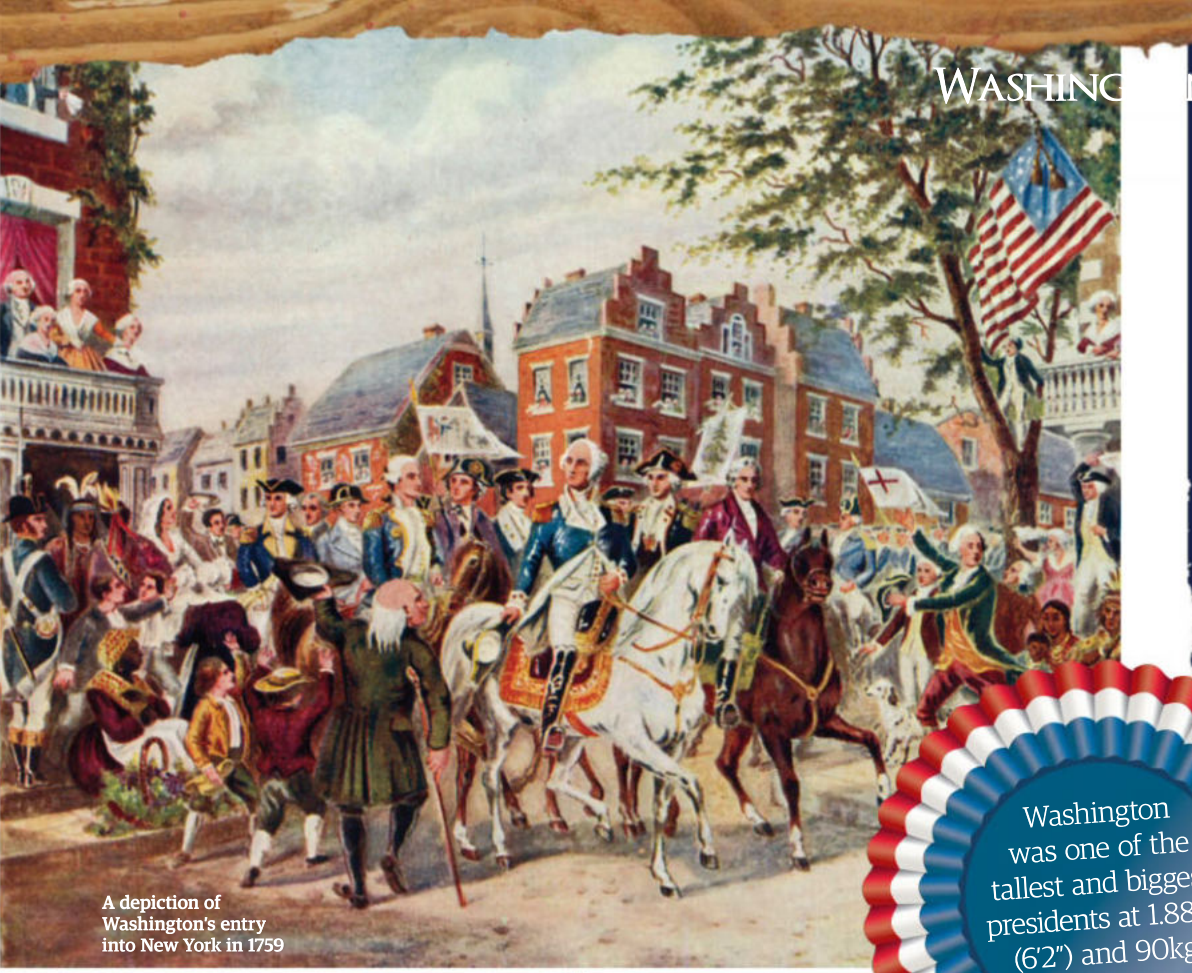


Naval blockade
The French victory at the Battle of Chesapeake allows admiral De Grasse to set up a blockade that prevents any chance of Cornwallis escaping by sea. This news encourages Washington to march toward Virginia and corner the British officer.

British surrender
Early in the morning on 17 October the British surrender, and by 19 October the men are taken as prisoners of war. Cornwallis refuses to meet with Washington, claiming to be ill while his army lay down their weapons, a crowd of civilians eagerly watching on.

The American assault
Using the French to distract the British attention, the Americans march toward redoubt #10. They chop through the British defences with axes then charge with their bayonets. Although the redcoats attempt to fight back, they are overwhelmed by the colonists.

The first attack
The British pull back from their outer defences, which the American and French forces take advantage of. They set up artillery and dig trenches, and by 9 October they begin to bombard the redcoats.



A depiction of Washington's entry into New York in 1759

Washington has been immortalised on Mount Rushmore along with Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln

Washington was one of the tallest and biggest presidents at 1.88m (6'2") and 90kg (200lb)

the United States. With victory declared, Washington disbanded his army and wished farewell to the men who had valued him not only as a leader, but also a fellow soldier. On 23 December 1783, in an action that would define him in the history books, he resigned as commander in chief of the army and humbly returned to his home in Mount Vernon.

However, without him his country was struggling. With nobody to unite them the states fought and squabbled among themselves over boundaries and inflicted harsh taxes on their own citizens. The ex-commander watched from afar as the land he had led to freedom struggled to support itself. He was dismayed, but hesitant to act. It wasn't until an armed uprising known as Shays' Rebellion took place in Massachusetts that Washington was finally persuaded to step into the limelight once more.

Washington quietly attended the Constitution Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787. There he sat and listened silently to the proceedings, speaking only once. However, his prestige spoke volumes and those gathered there agreed the national government needed more authority - it needed a figure strong and commanding enough to maintain control. Washington was unanimously chosen to fulfil this role. He became president of the convention in 1787, and by 1789 he was unanimously elected once more, but this time as the first-ever president of the United States - the only one in history to receive 100 per cent of the votes. He would serve two terms as president from 1789 to 1797 until he would yet again relinquish the power he could so easily have exploited. In the spring of 1797, he finally returned to his precious Mount Vernon, realising, perhaps more so than any one of the many people who supported him, that ultimate power in the land of the free could not lay solely in one man's hands indefinitely.

> "Washington did not see himself as a leader capable of leading such a vitally important force"

Washington myths cut down

We get an expert opinion on the myths surrounding this legendary man

Stephen Brumwell is a freelance writer and independent historian living in Amsterdam. His book, *George Washington: Gentleman Warrior*, won the 2013 George Washington Book Prize.

He had wooden teeth

George Washington was plagued with dental problems from his twenties, and by 1789, had just one of his own teeth remaining. He owned several sets of false teeth, but none was crafted from wood. Instead, Washington's dentures incorporated a variety of materials - bone, 'sea-horse', or hippopotamus ivory, and human teeth - fixed by lead, gold and metal wire. The belief that Washington's false teeth were wooden probably originated in the brown-stained appearance of surviving examples - apparently owing to his fondness for port wine.

He cut down a cherry tree and confessed to his father

Perhaps the best known of all the legends spun around Washington, the 'cherry tree story' first surfaced in a biography written after his death by Mason Locke Weems. Concerned with portraying Washington as an exemplary role model for his countrymen, 'Parson Weems' concocted the fable of the six-year-old hatcheting his father's prized cherry tree, and then deflecting parental wrath by frankly confessing to the deed with the words "I can't tell a lie, Pa."

Washington was a moonshiner

While there's no proof that Washington set up illicit liquor stills to make moonshine, he was certainly in the forefront of American whiskey production. On the advice of his Scottish farm manager, James Anderson, he established a whiskey distillery at Mount Vernon in 1797. By the year of Washington's death, 1799, this was producing almost 41,640l (11,000gal) of rye and corn whiskey, making it the largest US distillery of its day.

He threw a silver dollar across the Potomac River

Standing 188cm (6'2") tall, and with a well-muscled physique, young George Washington was renowned for his strength. Yet even Washington in his prime would have struggled to hurl a silver dollar across the Potomac River, which is more than 1.6km (1mi) wide opposite his Virginian home at Mount Vernon. Also, silver dollars were only introduced in 1794, when Washington was already in his sixties.

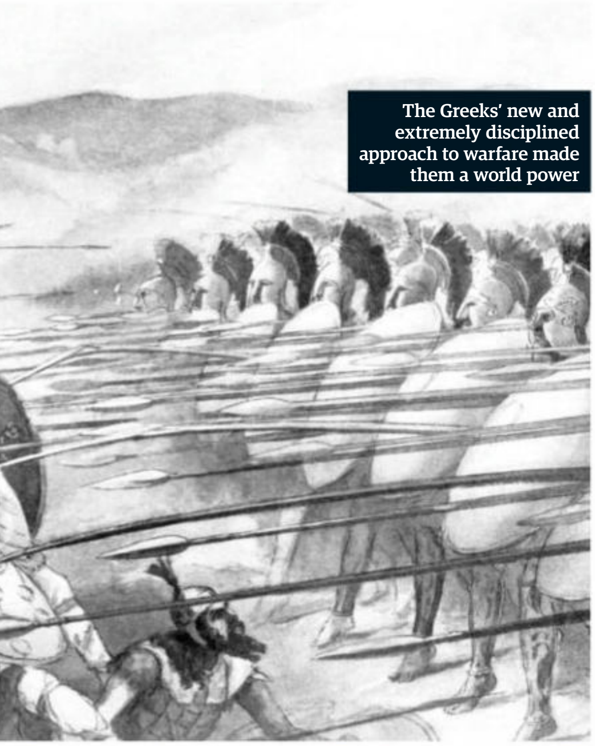
He wore a wig

Although wigs were fashionable during Washington's lifetime, he never wore one, preferring to keep his own hair, which was reddish-brown, long and tied back in a tight queue, or 'pigtail'. However, Washington regularly used the white hair powder that was customary among men of his wealthy social class, especially for formal occasions, and this gave the impression of a wig, apparent in many of his portraits.

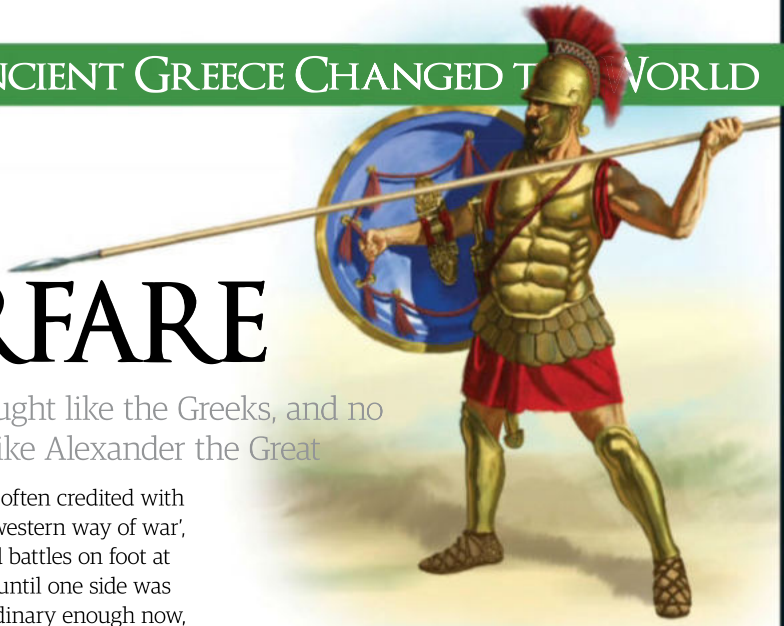
10 WAYS ANCIENT GREECE CHANGED THE WORLD

Spread across the Mediterranean Sea in more than a thousand small city-states, the secret of the Ancient Greeks' greatness lay in their extraordinary ambition and competitiveness

Written by Paul Fishman



The Greeks' new and extremely disciplined approach to warfare made them a world power



WARFARE

No one had ever fought like the Greeks, and no one had ever won like Alexander the Great

10

The Greeks are often credited with inventing the 'western way of war', fighting pitched battles on foot at fixed locations until one side was defeated. This may seem ordinary enough now, but in earlier periods and other parts of the world fighting was more tentative and less bloody, more reliant on missiles, manoeuvres and displays of force. Troops were also deployed much more loosely in non-Greek armies, fighting as individuals, not a unit. Although the Greeks used cavalry and lightly armed soldiers with javelins and the like for skirmishing, the essence of Greek warfare lay in heavily armed and armoured infantry in close formation, fighting hand-to-hand to the death. This style of fighting brought a new intensity and deadliness to battles. Once it had proven decisive in international warfare, most notably against the Persians and their huge multinational armies, things would never be the same again.

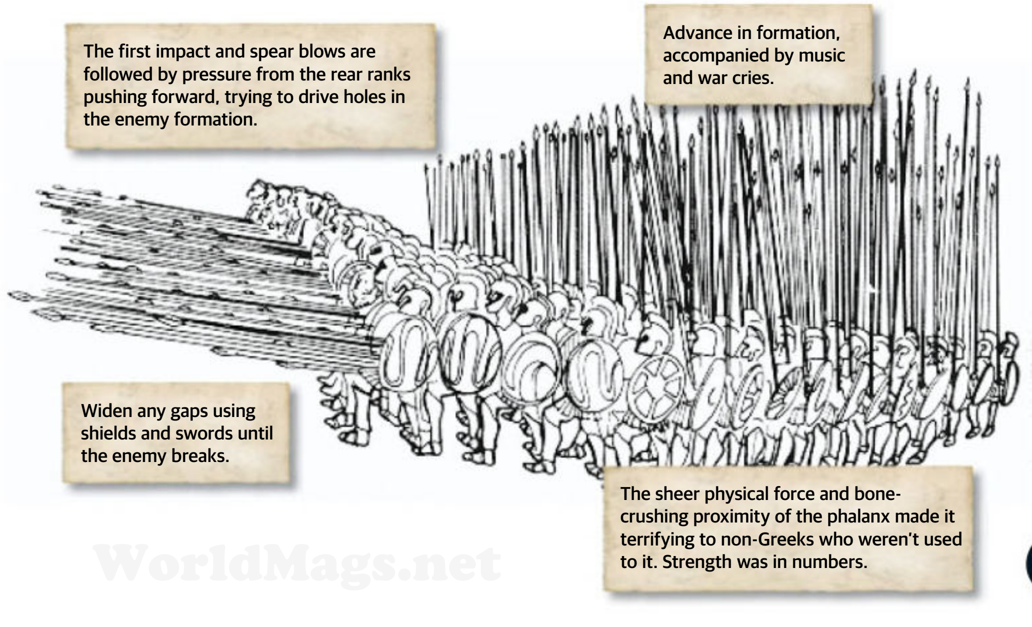
The basis for this was the hoplite soldier, named after the type of shield used. Hoplites were equipped with a bronze helmet, a leather or bronze breastplate, bronze greaves on their shins, a large circular shield (the 'hoplon') made from leather or wood faced with bronze, a long spear made from ash and tipped with an iron or bronze blade, and a short sword, also made from iron or bronze. The armour and weapons were physically demanding for the soldiers, requiring extreme fitness.

Hoplites were also highly disciplined. They faced the enemy shoulder to shoulder in the famous phalanx formation, each man covering his companion to the left with his shield and relying on his right-hand neighbour to do the same for him. The line would always creep to the right as each soldier tried to maximise his shield protection. Each rank of the phalanx would normally be at least eight-men deep, making the pressure from the hoplite line positively fearsome.

Morale was crucial. The unprecedented horror of hoplite warfare – crushed from in front and behind, being attacked with spears and swords from close range – was psychologically demanding. If soldiers from the front line broke and ran, the battle was almost instantly lost and the fleeing army, encumbered by heavy equipment, could be slaughtered. Spirits were shored up by wine with the pre-battle breakfast, music during the advance toward the enemy, and the 'paean', the fearsome ululating battle cry of 'eleleleu.'

This tactic was perfected by the Macedonian kings Phillip II and his son, Alexander III – 'the Great'. Professional drill, greater tactical flexibility, better equipment – including the sarissa, a long pike to replace the earlier spears – and increased use of cavalry were among the factors that allowed them to first conquer Greece and then reverse centuries of Persian expansion and conquer the East in the late-4th century BCE, changing the world forever.

PHALANX TACTICS



The first impact and spear blows are followed by pressure from the rear ranks pushing forward, trying to drive holes in the enemy formation.

Advance in formation, accompanied by music and war cries.

Widen any gaps using shields and swords until the enemy breaks.

The sheer physical force and bone-crushing proximity of the phalanx made it terrifying to non-Greeks who weren't used to it. Strength was in numbers.

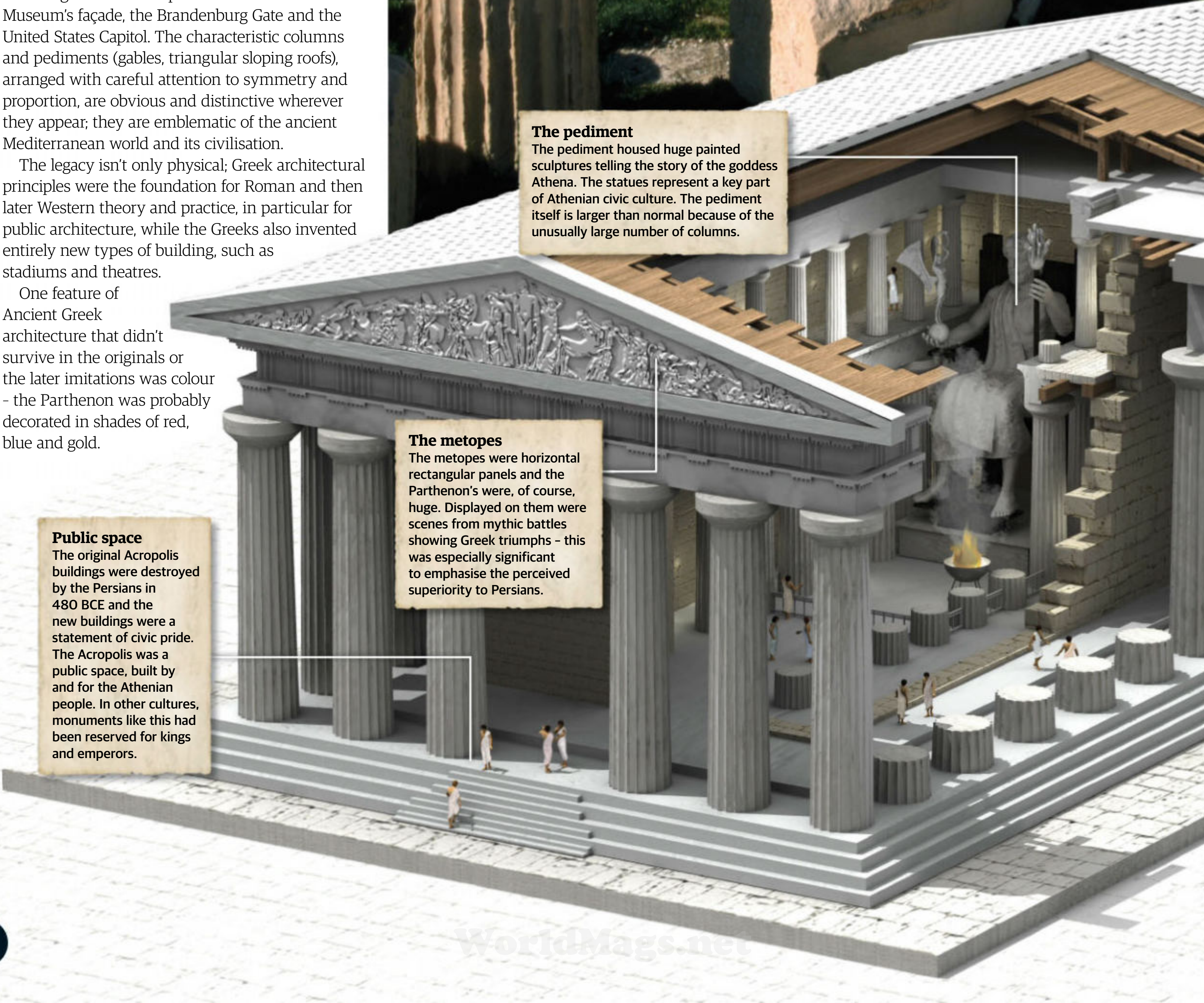
ARCHITECTURE

We can see the influence of the Greeks in cities around the globe – our world would literally not look the same without them

09 Even after more than 2,000 years, Ancient Greek buildings are among the most recognisable in the world. Think of the skeletal remains on the Acropolis framed against the Athenian skyline, one of the most famous modern cityscapes. These buildings were also influential, with a huge number of public structures worldwide from the Renaissance onward being their descendants, including famous examples such as the British Museum's façade, the Brandenburg Gate and the United States Capitol. The characteristic columns and pediments (gables, triangular sloping roofs), arranged with careful attention to symmetry and proportion, are obvious and distinctive wherever they appear; they are emblematic of the ancient Mediterranean world and its civilisation.

The legacy isn't only physical; Greek architectural principles were the foundation for Roman and then later Western theory and practice, in particular for public architecture, while the Greeks also invented entirely new types of building, such as stadiums and theatres.

One feature of Ancient Greek architecture that didn't survive in the originals or the later imitations was colour – the Parthenon was probably decorated in shades of red, blue and gold.



The pediment
The pediment housed huge painted sculptures telling the story of the goddess Athena. The statues represent a key part of Athenian civic culture. The pediment itself is larger than normal because of the unusually large number of columns.

The metopes
The metopes were horizontal rectangular panels and the Parthenon's were, of course, huge. Displayed on them were scenes from mythic battles showing Greek triumphs – this was especially significant to emphasise the perceived superiority to Persians.

Public space
The original Acropolis buildings were destroyed by the Persians in 480 BCE and the new buildings were a statement of civic pride. The Acropolis was a public space, built by and for the Athenian people. In other cultures, monuments like this had been reserved for kings and emperors.

POLITICS

Before the Greeks, politics was just something people did. They made it something people thought about

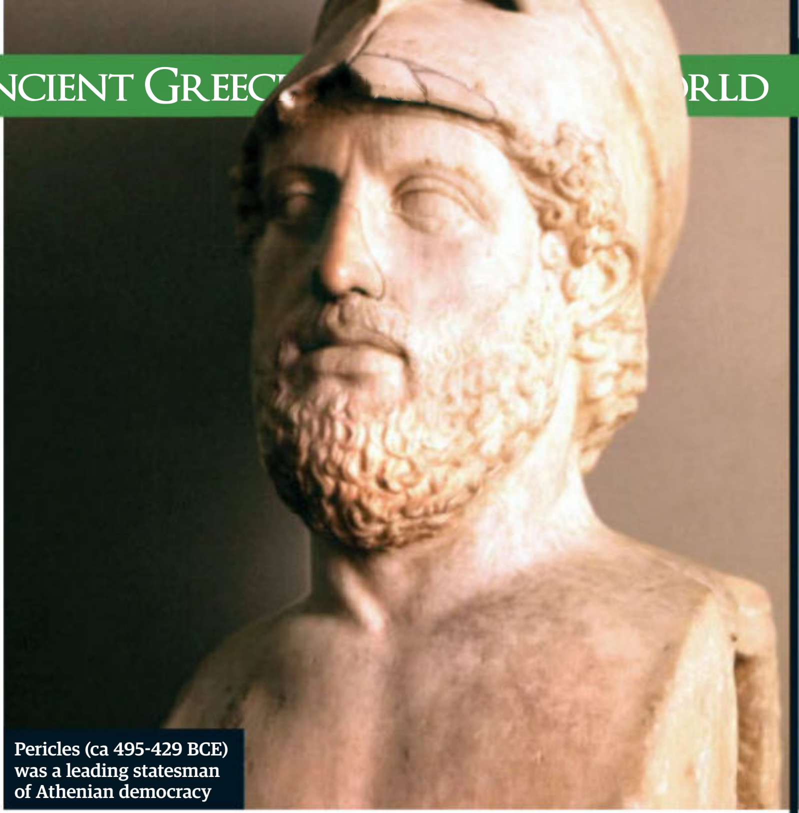
08

Politics is a Greek word meaning 'affairs of the polis' - polis meant 'city' or 'state'. Democracy, oligarchy, monarchy and tyranny are just some of the many other terms we have taken from them. They were probably the first civilisation to really think about politics. Unlike their contemporaries, they analysed different systems; they didn't simply assume that their own way was the only way, even if they often thought it was the best.

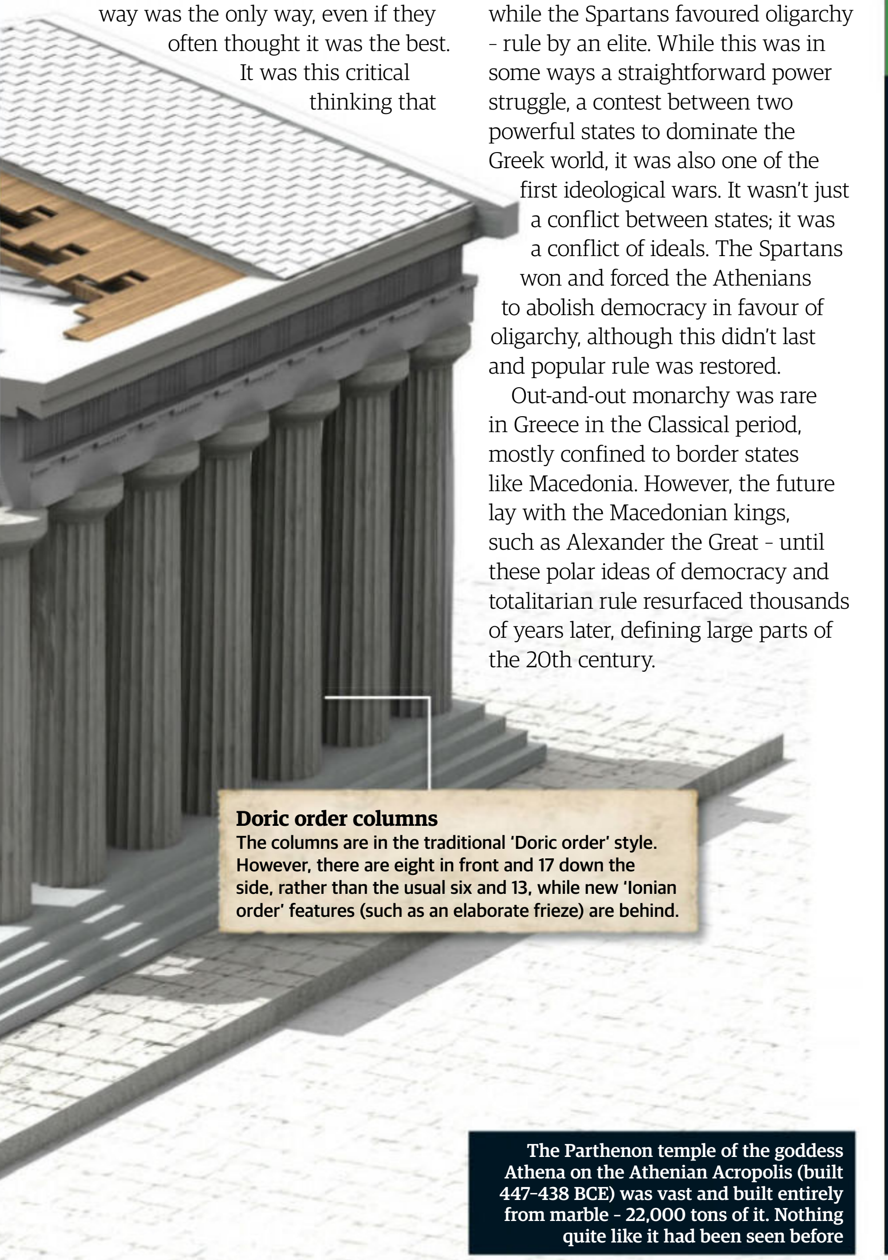
It was this critical thinking that was probably their greatest legacy, even more than their dramatic experiments with democracy at one end (Athens) and extreme social control at the other (Sparta).

In the 5th century BCE, the Greek world became increasingly divided, culminating in the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE) in which Athens and their allies fought against Sparta and their allies. Broadly speaking, the Athenians were pro-democracy, while the Spartans favoured oligarchy - rule by an elite. While this was in some ways a straightforward power struggle, a contest between two powerful states to dominate the Greek world, it was also one of the first ideological wars. It wasn't just a conflict between states; it was a conflict of ideals. The Spartans won and forced the Athenians to abolish democracy in favour of oligarchy, although this didn't last and popular rule was restored.

Out-and-out monarchy was rare in Greece in the Classical period, mostly confined to border states like Macedonia. However, the future lay with the Macedonian kings, such as Alexander the Great - until these polar ideas of democracy and totalitarian rule resurfaced thousands of years later, defining large parts of the 20th century.



Pericles (ca 495-429 BCE) was a leading statesman of Athenian democracy



Doric order columns
The columns are in the traditional 'Doric order' style. However, there are eight in front and 17 down the side, rather than the usual six and 13, while new 'Ionian order' features (such as an elaborate frieze) are behind.

The Parthenon temple of the goddess Athena on the Athenian Acropolis (built 447-438 BCE) was vast and built entirely from marble - 22,000 tons of it. Nothing quite like it had been seen before

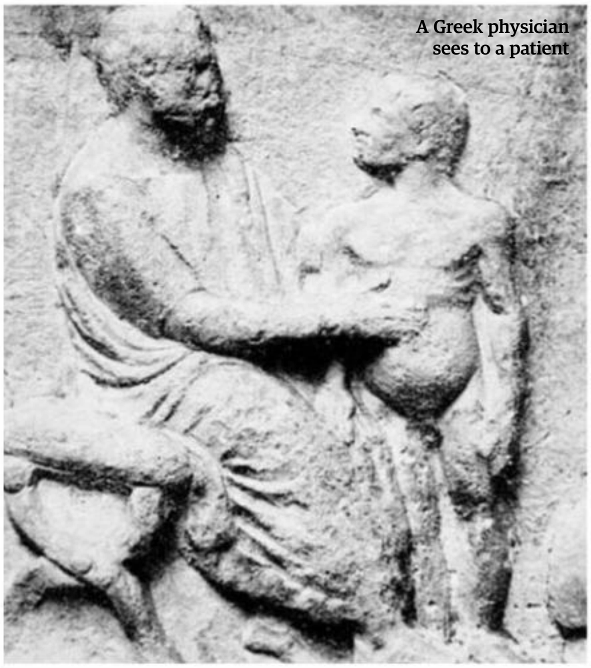
SPARTA	VS	ATHENS
Spartan citizens could vote on proposals made by their council of elders, but they could not choose what to vote on or debate. They voted by shouting. They also voted for their chief magistrates, the 'ephors', every year. The ephors served alongside two hereditary kings in a complex political set-up.	VOTING	In the period of full democracy in Athens all Athenian officials were elected or chosen through a lottery, much like today's jury service, where any free citizen could be chosen to serve for a set amount of time. Even generals were elected. Citizens could debate all public policy and propose motions for debate.
Sparta was a land power and was largely closed to the outside world. Trade was insignificant and it only had a small navy and no merchant fleet. Precious few outsiders were welcome in Sparta, and they could only live there by official invitation, which was extremely rare.	FOREIGN POLICY	Athens was a sea power with a thriving international trade, a powerful navy and a large body of non-Athenian residents - merchants, artisans, scholars and artists. Unlike Sparta, Athens was dependent on trade, especially grain imports, for its survival and prosperity.
Although Spartan women were not full citizens in the sense that men were, Spartan women were famous in Ancient Greece for their freedom and public visibility. They were known as 'thigh showers' because of their short tunics and scandalised non-Spartans with their public dancing and sexual freedom.	WOMEN	Women had few rights. Courtesans might behave with more freedom, but 'respectable' women were expected to be neither seen nor heard outside the home. Practice may have been more liberal than theory, however: one Greek comedy has women going on a 'sex strike' to force the men to make peace with Sparta.
In English, the word 'spartan' means 'austere, without comfort', and it's no surprise that Classical Sparta was a simple and basic city in every sense of the word. There was no ostentatious public architecture, and there weren't even city walls - the city's walls were its men, the Spartans said.	PUBLIC SPACES	The public buildings of Athens, especially on the Acropolis, were a marvel of the ancient world, setting new standards of magnificence and innovation. The impressive public spaces were heaving with activity. The city itself and the neighbouring harbour, the Piraeus, were enclosed within near-unbreachable walls.
'Laconic', meaning 'using few words' in English, comes from 'Laconia', another word for Sparta. Spartans were famed for their dry and abrupt wit. After a disastrous sea battle, a Spartan sent one of the most laconic war despatches ever recorded: "Ships gone; Mindarus [the admiral] dead; the men starving; at our wits' end what to do."	ELOQUENCE	Training in public speaking was an important part of a well-to-do Athenian's education. One of the most famous orators of all time, Demosthenes, was an Athenian, though it should be said he was also famous for warning against the Macedonians in speech after speech - and being ignored until it was too late.

MEDICINE

"First do no harm," said Hippocrates. He didn't do a great deal of good to his patients, either, but he did lay the foundations for future medicine

07 The Greek contribution to scientific medicine was huge. While even the best of their doctors couldn't cure many illnesses and they were proven wrong in many of their speculations, their ethos and method were the foundation for later developments and live on today. While supernatural diagnoses and religious and magical cures continued alongside the new rational medicine of Hippocrates in the 5th and 4th centuries BCE, this was a significant stage in the history of medicine; perhaps the single largest shift in medical thinking there has been. The new physicians said that illness had purely natural causes, coming from within the body and the physical environment; it was not a curse from gods or witches. They developed a method of close observation to study individual diseases, identifying them and cataloguing their symptoms.

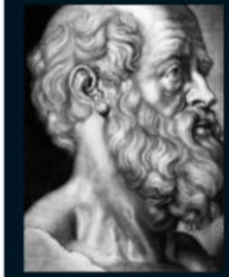
Hippocrates particularly insisted on a selfless and compassionate duty of care to patients. The principles and methods were now in place to advance medical knowledge and care, even if treatment was often ineffective without today's knowledge of physiology.



A Greek physician sees to a patient

The snake and staff were a symbol of Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine

HIPPOCRATES



Hippocrates believed most illnesses were caused by the body's natural balance being disrupted and that the role of the physician was to help nature restore it. Unfortunately, his ideas of physiology were hopelessly wrong. He thought the balance was between four 'humours': blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile.

Purgatives and bloodletting

If the humours were unbalanced by 'too much' blood or bile, then the patient might be bled or given a laxative or emetic.

Diet and exercise

Regular exercise, bathing in the sea and avoiding overeating were all recommended to help avoid illness. During illness a light or liquid diet would be prescribed.

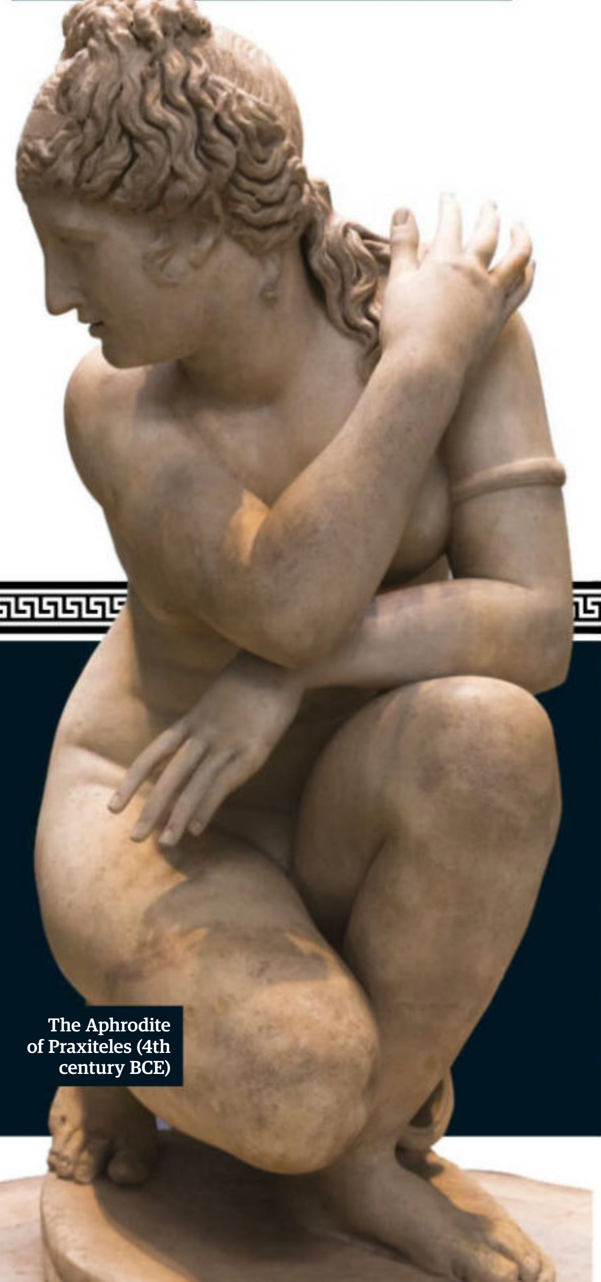
Quiet and rest

Patients should not be disturbed and should rest to help conserve and restore their strength.

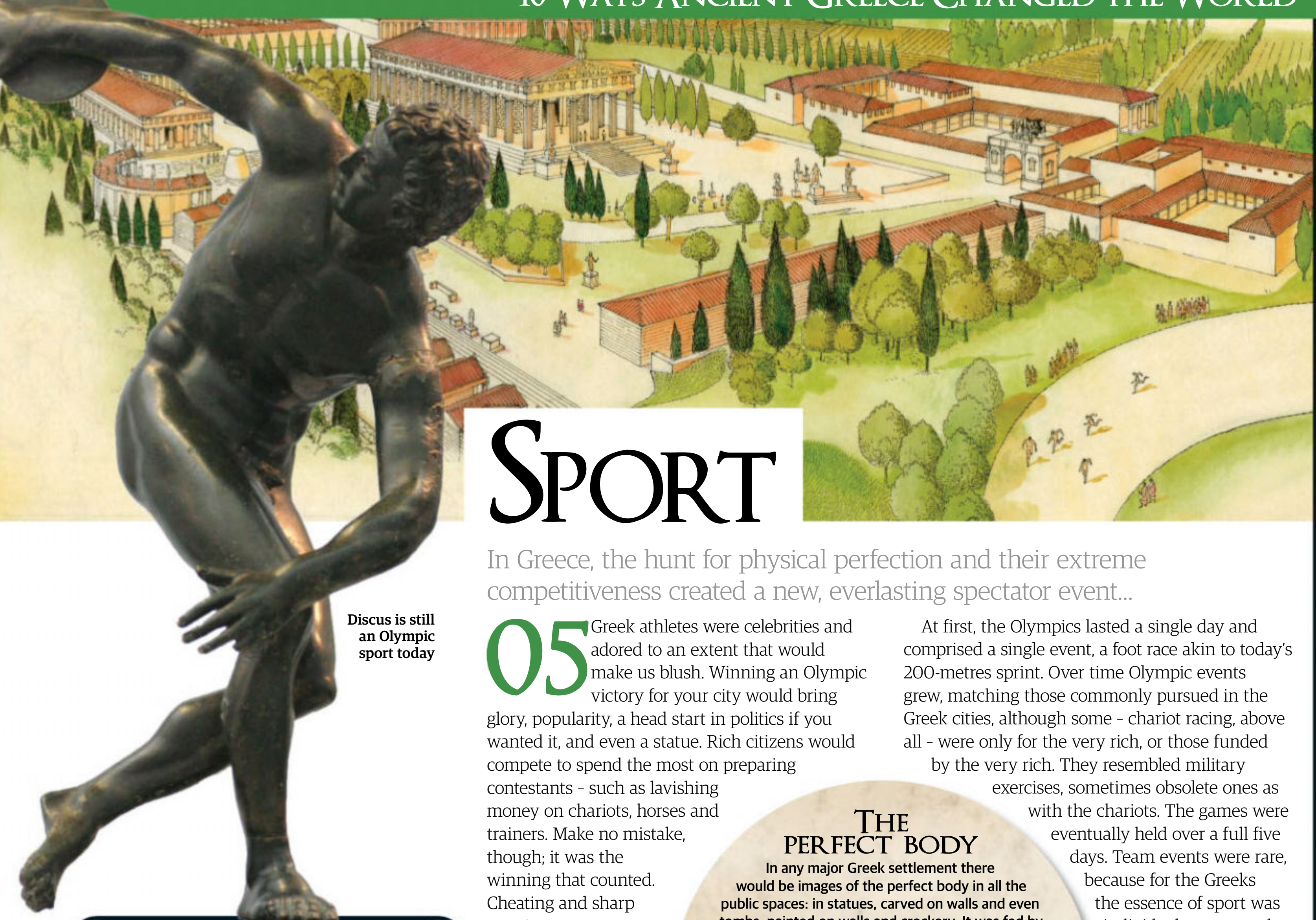
ART

Perfection of form and realism of presentation made Greek art stand out. Have their sculptures ever been bettered?

06 Sculpture and painting were without doubt the greatest of the Greek visual arts, especially sculpture. The distinctive characteristics were a concentration on the human form rather than landscapes or strange and inhuman figures - such as gods, monsters or demons; a focus on perfection and beauty; attention to detail and a sense of realism. It might seem that realism and perfection would be in conflict, but this was not the case. The Greeks admired perfect forms, such as idealised bodies. What was being painted or sculpted was perfect. The realism was in the presentation - how the form was being shown. So greater three-dimensionality and more natural postures and stances for bodies in statues added realism. This, combined with attention to detail, had an enduring influence on Western art that still lives to this day.



The Aphrodite of Praxiteles (4th century BCE)



Discus is still an Olympic sport today

SPORT

In Greece, the hunt for physical perfection and their extreme competitiveness created a new, everlasting spectator event...

05

Greek athletes were celebrities and adored to an extent that would make us blush. Winning an Olympic victory for your city would bring glory, popularity, a head start in politics if you wanted it, and even a statue. Rich citizens would compete to spend the most on preparing contestants - such as lavishing money on chariots, horses and trainers. Make no mistake, though; it was the winning that counted. Cheating and sharp practice were not unknown and could create lasting controversy and ill-feeling, while injuries and deaths were an accepted part of the fighting events. What's more - much like now - star athletes could be persuaded to represent other, richer cities.

Although we focus on the Olympics, and rightly so in many ways, sport and exercise were part of daily life for male Greeks, as well as young female Spartans. In fact, sport and exercise were part of what made the Greeks different from their neighbours, and they recognised and celebrated this fact. The Olympic Games, traditionally said to have begun in 776 BCE and always held at Olympia, were only open to adult Greek-speaking males.

At first, the Olympics lasted a single day and comprised a single event, a foot race akin to today's 200-metres sprint. Over time Olympic events grew, matching those commonly pursued in the Greek cities, although some - chariot racing, above all - were only for the very rich, or those funded by the very rich. They resembled military exercises, sometimes obsolete ones as with the chariots. The games were eventually held over a full five days. Team events were rare, because for the Greeks the essence of sport was individual contest and personal victory. Events included foot, horse and chariot races; discus and javelin throw; the long jump; wrestling; boxing; a pentathlon; and pankration, a combination of wrestling and boxing. Athletes trained in a quite modern way, except that they were often naked, as they would be in many of the contests themselves. As with the modern Olympics, the prize for victory was a token, an olive wreath, but only the winner was recognised - there was no reward for coming second.

Many of our sporting words, including 'athletics', 'athlete', 'gymnastics', 'gymnasium', 'stadium', 'hippodrome' and - of course - 'Olympics' come from Greek, suggesting just how much modern sport owes to them.

THE PERFECT BODY

In any major Greek settlement there would be images of the perfect body in all the public spaces: in statues, carved on walls and even tombs, painted on walls and crockery. It was fed by their obsessive concern for symmetry and proportion, as seen in their architecture. Every place of substance would also have gymnasia. For the well-off (male) citizen hiring a personal trainer, watching your diet and exercising to look good were all essential. All we have added to the mix is cosmetic surgery. We have celebrity and fitness magazines instead of public art. It seems very modern, but in fact it's quite Greek. However, there was a more serious note to their exercise, because they were also preparing to fight in battle. The physical and mental demands of hoplite warfare would hardly have been possible without this preparation.

OLYMPIC EVENTS

Sprint

Skills required: Speed, acceleration and strength and stamina when in armour

Is it still an Olympic event? Yes, though neither naked nor in armour

Horse and chariot racing

Skills required: Horsemanship, courage and good funding

Is it still an Olympic event? There are equestrian events, but not races - or chariots

Discus

Skills required: Strength and coordination

Is it still an Olympic event? Yes

Boxing

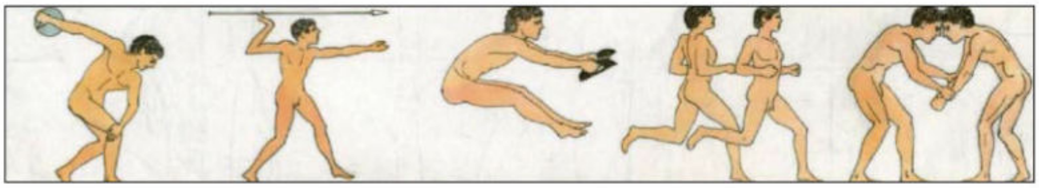
Skills required: Strength, stamina and courage

Is it still an Olympic event? Yes, though unlike the Greeks we use padded gloves

Pentathlon

Skills required: All the athletic skills, plus stamina and courage

Is it still an Olympic event? Yes, although the individual events have changed



LITERATURE

The Greeks established many of the genres of Western literature

04 The first written western literature was the *Iliad*, a Greek heroic poem probably written in the 8th century BCE. Lyric and elegiac poetry – originally set to music from the lyre and the flute, respectively – were Greek creations. The Athenians alone established two dramatic genres, tragedy and comedy (in two different styles), while the philosopher Aristotle codified dramatic principles in his influential *Poetics*. The Greeks also wrote novels, ornamental speeches and were the first people to write history; Herodotus was the first historian of any sort, while Thucydides was the first modern-seeming historian.

Only a small portion of Greek literature has survived, but what has - such as the epic poems of Homer, the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes and Menander - is still read today, both in Greek and in translation.

EDUCATION

The Athenians anticipated the widespread literacy and universities of modern democracies, while Spartans inspired totalitarian regimes with their fiercely regimented state schooling

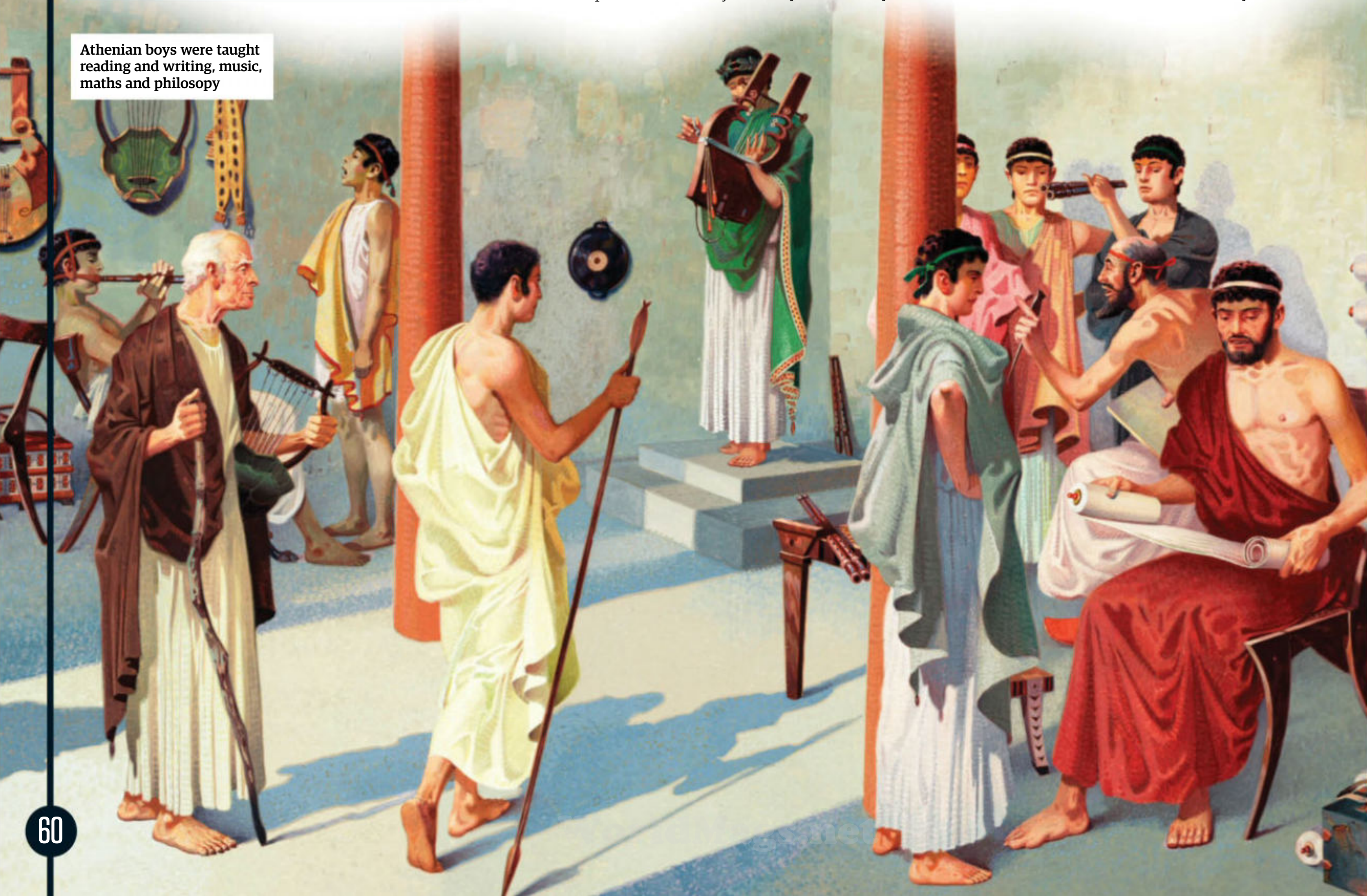
03 As with so many other things, Athens and Sparta educated their children in very different ways. Other Greeks had various approaches, but most were closer to the Athenians, and by the late-4th century BCE the Athenian way was widespread. One belief they all shared was that education's purpose was to produce good citizens.

In Sparta, a good citizen meant being a good soldier. Boys were taken from their families at seven, lived in communal barracks and were subjected to ferocious discipline and military training. Perhaps uniquely among Ancient Greeks, girls were also educated, again with an emphasis on physical and mental toughness.

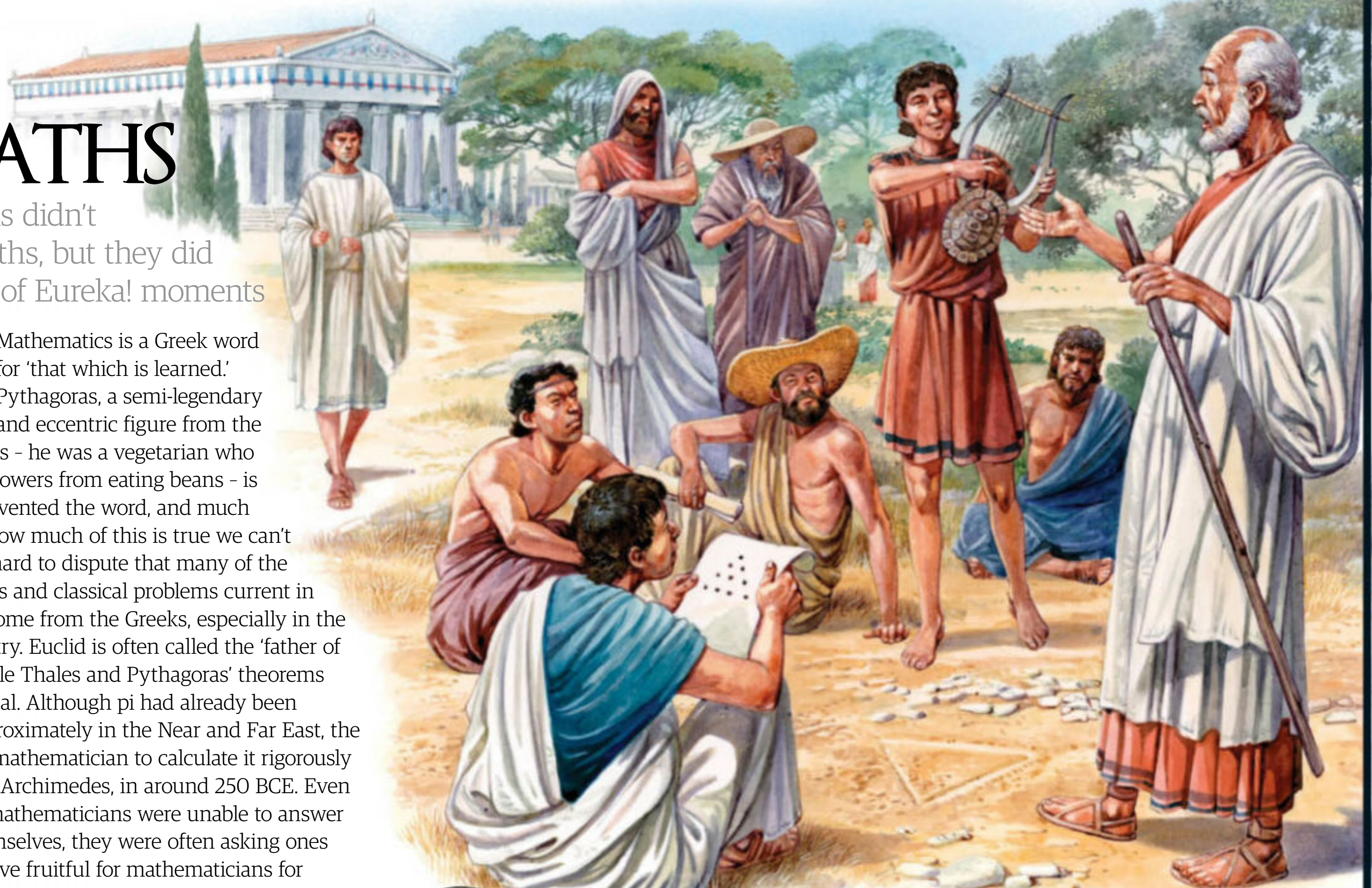
In Athens, physical training was also important, but there was much more emphasis on literacy and culture. It is thought that a higher proportion of adult male citizens could read and write in 5th and 4th-century BCE Athens than in any modern European state until the 20th century. This reflected the requirements and ambitions of an active democracy.

Most Athenian boys probably only had a few years of formal education, but the well-to-do wanted more to help them compete and excel in public life. In the 5th and 4th centuries BCE higher education developed, incorporating elements of new thinking - philosophy, mathematics and the like - although the early focus was on teaching 'cleverness', especially rhetorical tricks.

In time, schools such as those founded by the philosophers Plato and Aristotle offered a more purely educational approach, providing the blueprint for modern universities. Academia and academics are named after Plato's school, the Academy.



Athenian boys were taught reading and writing, music, maths and philosopy



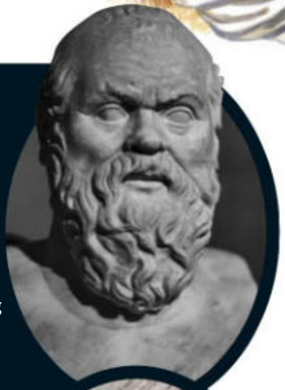
Pythagoras shared his knowledge with his students

MATHS

The Greeks didn't invent maths, but they did have a lot of Eureka! moments

02 Mathematics is a Greek word for 'that which is learned.' Pythagoras, a semi-legendary and eccentric figure from the island of Samos - he was a vegetarian who forbade his followers from eating beans - is said to have invented the word, and much else besides. How much of this is true we can't know, but it's hard to dispute that many of the terms, concepts and classical problems current in maths today come from the Greeks, especially in the field of geometry. Euclid is often called the 'father of geometry', while Thales and Pythagoras' theorems are fundamental. Although pi had already been calculated approximately in the Near and Far East, the first recorded mathematician to calculate it rigorously was the Greek Archimedes, in around 250 BCE. Even where Greek mathematicians were unable to answer questions themselves, they were often asking ones that would prove fruitful for mathematicians for millennia to come.

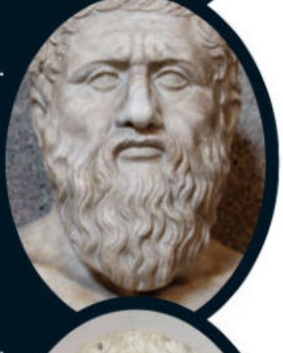
GREAT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS



Socrates

A poor Athenian, he was a famously tough soldier during the wars against Sparta. He was sentenced to death for 'introducing new gods' to Athens and corrupting youth through his ideas, and famously died by voluntarily drinking hemlock. Socrates didn't leave any written documents, but his legacy came through his pupils, especially Plato.

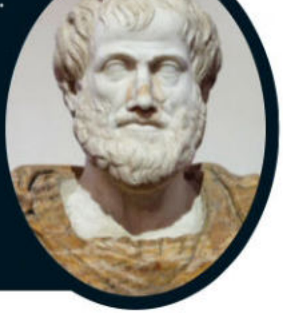
“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING”



Plato

Born in the 420s BCE to a wealthy aristocratic Athenian family, he died in the mid-4th century. He tried to turn Dionysius, the ruler of Syracuse, into a 'philosopher-king', but was sold into slavery for his pains, though he was quickly bought and freed by an admirer. He founded the famous Academy.

“IGNORANCE, THE ROOT AND STEM OF EVERY EVIL”



Aristotle

Aristotle (384-322 BCE) was born in northern Greece, but educated from the age of 18 in Athens at Plato's Academy. He returned north to act as the future Alexander the Great's tutor for several years, before returning to Athens to found his own school, the Lyceum.

“PLATO IS DEAR TO ME, BUT DEARER STILL IS TRUTH”

PHILOSOPHY

Greek philosophers didn't only invent their own subject; they also invented science

01 The word philosophy comes from the Greek for 'love of wisdom', and is said to have first been used by Pythagoras. The Greeks didn't differentiate between what we would think of as science and philosophy, and many philosophers were chiefly concerned with physics, speculating on the nature of the universe. Famously, Democritus (ca 460-370 BCE) expounded an early version of atomic theory. Plato is said to have despised Democritus to such an extent that he wanted to burn all his writings!

It wasn't until Socrates (ca 470-399 BCE) that subjects with humankind as their focus, such as ethics, became fully recognised philosophical concerns. Socrates also developed the dialectical method - roughly, question and answer with an emphasis on discovering true or false statements and definitions - which has been hugely influential in many fields.

What we think of as 'critical thinking' owes much to Socrates, who made many enemies by challenging lazy beliefs and conventional wisdom, often with mischievous humour.

Plato was a pupil of Socrates, while Aristotle was a pupil of Plato's. Plato's interests were widespread, but his greatest concern - the subject for his masterpiece, *The Republic* - was justice. His belief in the interconnectedness of things led him to state that justice could only be seen in a just state, for him a sort of philosopher's version of Sparta, which influenced later totalitarian political thinking. Aristotle was more of a pragmatist and observer, a forerunner of social scientists in some ways, as well as physical scientists.

Other major movements included Epicurianism, Stoicism and Cynicism, all of which have spawned English words based on simplified (and somewhat misleading) versions of their teachings.

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INSIDE THE NAZI STATE

Discover what life was like in Germany under Hitler's murderous rule

Written by Will Lawrence

The reporter from the *Daily Express*, D Sefton Delmar, hurries out into the night. It is late in the evening of 27 February 1933, and a fire is raging at the German parliament building, the Reichstag. Delmar spots Hitler arriving at the scene.

"This is a God-given signal", Hitler tells Delmar as firefighters battle the inferno. "If this fire, as I believe, turns out to be the handiwork of communists, then there is nothing that shall stop us now crushing out this murder pest with an iron fist."

The sirens and alarms that blare through the Berlin night announce not only the raging fire, but also a new beginning for life in Germany. Hitler's plot to pin the fire on a terrorist attack instigated by communists – even though it is certainly believed today the Nazis were behind the conflagration – paves the way for the Nazis to take sole control of government.

The Reichstag Fire Decree is issued the following day, suspending a string of civil liberties, while the Enabling Act comes less than a month later, the Reichstag voting itself into redundancy by permitting the chancellor to enact laws without the co-operation of parliament.

The Nazis are now in sole command and Hitler is set to become a dictator at last. The German people must prepare for life under Nazi rule, which will promote a glorious People's Community united under one party and one, bountiful leader who has a predetermined, terrifying ideology that he will force upon the nation…

Hitler Youth

The Nazis' bid to create a militarised nation saw the Hitler Youth emerge as a key organisation during the 1930s

Germany had long enjoyed a thriving youth movement, with dozens of clubs and societies active before 1933. The Hitler Youth was formed in 1926, but it was not initially a popular group; only once the Nazis came to power and either banned or synthesised existing collectives did the Hitler Youth begin to blossom. There were fewer than 60,000 members when the Nazis claimed power, but almost 9 million in 1939 when membership became compulsory.

The aim of the movement was to breed a nation of soldiers. Entry began with induction into the cubs or 'pimpfen' at the age of six, before boys of ten years then joined the German Youth or 'Deutsches Jungvolk' before finally graduating to the Hitler Youth, 'Hitler Jugend', at 14, where they remained until they could join the military. The Hitler Youth learned the motto: "Live faithfully, fight bravely and die laughing."

Many boys liked the camaraderie the movement engendered and plenty of those from less privileged backgrounds loved the games, summer camps, camping trips and ceremonies that bonded the members together. Indeed, many children joined up against their parents' wishes. As the boys got older, however, some of them found their enthusiasm waning, especially during the war years when the emphasis was on strict disciple and military training.

While the boys trained for lives as warriors of the state, girls too were encouraged into a society, the League of German Girls, which promoted a robust view of Germanic motherhood to those over ten years old. They learned the motto, "Be faithful, be pure, be German." Again, enthusiasm waned once membership became obligatory in 1939.

Among other things, the Hitler Youth taught the handling of guns

Hitler Youth members on a camping trip

Daily activities for the Hitler Youth

1 Shooting

Shooting was a required activity for all members aged ten or over. Rifle ownership was not common in 1930s Germany and shooting proved a perennially popular activity among the boys.

2 Sports

Physical education was a vital component of the Hitler Youth movement, though the compulsory calisthenics were often unpopular. Competitive sports, especially athletics and boxing, were also strongly encouraged.

3 Education

While core education was left to the school curriculum, the Nazis used the Youth movement to propagate its exclusionist policies, teaching racism against Jews and other 'outsiders.' Some older members of the Hitler Youth joined the SA stormtroopers in racist attacks.

4 Military training

Engendering discipline and respect for authority was integral to the Hitler Youth's bid to mould future warriors and plenty of time was spent lined up in formation. Direct military training included parade-ground drills, Morse code, trench digging and the like.

5 Camping

Another popular activity with young boys and girls, camping sprang into life during the spring and summer months. German youth movements already had a long tradition of camping over Whitsun, the seventh Sunday after Easter.

6 Hiking

Often going hand in hand with camping, hiking was of particular importance as it built physical stamina, discipline and camaraderie among the members, as well as propagating practical skills like map reading. Hiking was often encouraged on Sundays to distract boys from church activities.

7 Ceremonies

Children appreciate parades, pomp and pageantry and the ceremonial side of Nazi life sought to build a sense of purpose and community among its youth. The Hitler Youth's drum and bugle corps played a prominent role in Nazi social activity.

8 Music and singing

A key area for those boys who did not excel at sports, music and singing were integral to the Hitler Youth, with its penchant for pageantry. Reich youth leader Baldur von Schirach believed that, "Songs possess the strongest community-building power."

Women

Under the Nazi regime, a woman's place was most definitely in the home...

Hedwig Rohde received the Mother's Cross for having eight children

The Nazi Party played up stereotypes to a terrifying degree as it promoted the superiority of 'pure Aryans', male and female. The men were to be great warriors, happily surrendering their lives for the Führer and the Reich. Women, meanwhile, were to be strong homemakers and willing mothers. They, like the men, were to be physically robust. They would have strong hips and wear neither heels nor make-up. They would not smoke in public. Propriety was their watchword.

"The slogan 'Emancipation of women' was invented by Jewish intellectuals", said Hitler at the 1934 Nuremberg Rally. "For her [the woman] the world is her husband, her family, her children and her home." The Führer's medieval view of society stood in stark contrast to the liberalism of the Weimar Republic, which had granted women the right to vote, while also making concessions toward equal pay and professional advancement.

According to Hitler, the Weimar Republic had got it all wrong. When coming to power, the Nazis dismissed women from senior positions in the civil service and within three years they had banned females from the legal profession as well. Under Nazi ideology, the woman's place was definitely in the home.

Hitler wanted a high birth rate, and good morals, and therefore launched a key policy, the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage, which from 1933 loaned newly wed couples 1,000 marks via the granting of vouchers for household goods. The woman was required to surrender her job, though a quarter of the loan was written off with each child produced. A rising population would boost the long-term plans for German expansion. Women without husbands, meanwhile, could volunteer to carry a child for true Aryan members of the SS. Marriages between 'pure' Germans and outsiders were forbidden.

"The mission of women is to be beautiful and to bring children into the world," said Nazi propaganda chief Josef Göbbels in 1929. "The female bird pretties herself for her mate and hatches eggs for him. In exchange, the male takes care of gathering food, and stands guard and wards off the enemy."

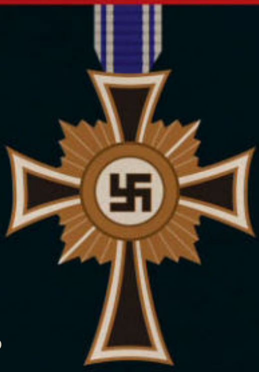
Upon coming to power, the party launched a clutch of organisations to promote its worldview among women, including the prominent German Women's League, formed in 1933 to oversee all-female societies. By the time war broke out in 1939, it boasted more than 6 million members.

The pressures of feeding a war machine eventually saw the Nazis modify their policy toward women and from 1939 onward they encouraged women back to work, though female labourers remained employed, primarily in agriculture and industry.

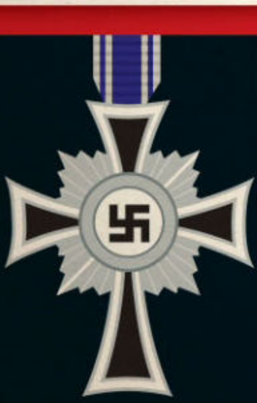
Nazi officer Leiter Reichel with wife and 12 children – his wife is wearing her Gold Mother's Cross

Cross of Honour of the German Mother

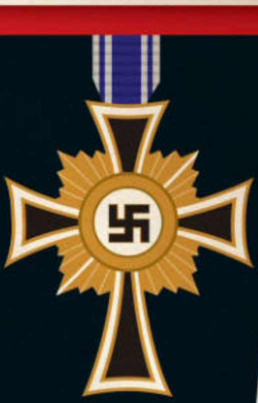
Referred to as the Mother's Cross, this government-conferred award was introduced in 1939 and was designed to encourage scrupulousness, fine moral rectitude and prolific childbearing feats among German women. The honours were awarded on 12 August, the birthday of Hitler's mother. The cross came in three categories.



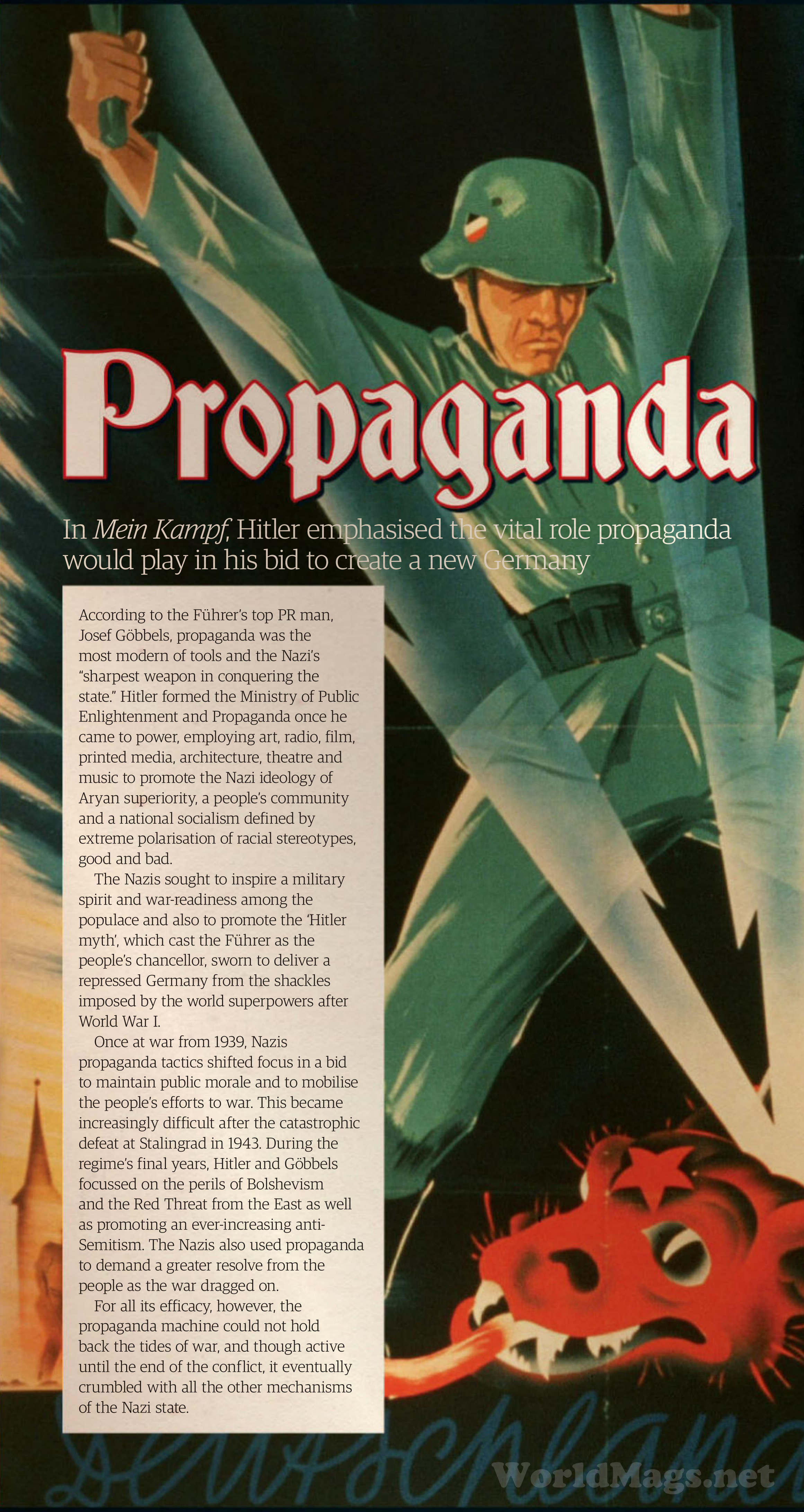
3RD CLASS ORDER
BRONZE CROSS
For mothers with four to five children



2ND CLASS ORDER
SILVER CROSS
For mothers with six to seven children



1ST CLASS ORDER
GOLD CROSS
For mothers with eight or more children



Propaganda

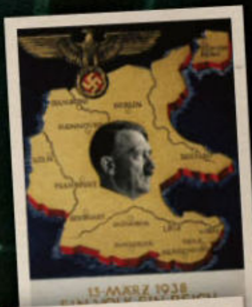
In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler emphasised the vital role propaganda would play in his bid to create a new Germany

According to the Führer's top PR man, Josef Göbbels, propaganda was the most modern of tools and the Nazi's "sharpest weapon in conquering the state." Hitler formed the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda once he came to power, employing art, radio, film, printed media, architecture, theatre and music to promote the Nazi ideology of Aryan superiority, a people's community and a national socialism defined by extreme polarisation of racial stereotypes, good and bad.

The Nazis sought to inspire a military spirit and war-readiness among the populace and also to promote the 'Hitler myth', which cast the Führer as the people's chancellor, sworn to deliver a repressed Germany from the shackles imposed by the world superpowers after World War I.

Once at war from 1939, Nazis propaganda tactics shifted focus in a bid to maintain public morale and to mobilise the people's efforts to war. This became increasingly difficult after the catastrophic defeat at Stalingrad in 1943. During the regime's final years, Hitler and Göbbels focussed on the perils of Bolshevism and the Red Threat from the East as well as promoting an ever-increasing anti-Semitism. The Nazis also used propaganda to demand a greater resolve from the people as the war dragged on.

For all its efficacy, however, the propaganda machine could not hold back the tides of war, and though active until the end of the conflict, it eventually crumbled with all the other mechanisms of the Nazi state.

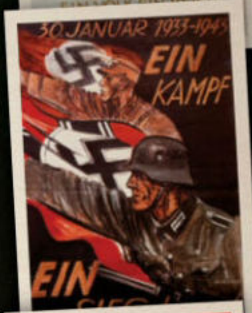


Hitler myth

"One people, one empire, one leader"

1938

As the Nazis geared up for war, they sought to unite the public behind one strong dictator and war leader. Josef Göbbels considered the 'Hitler myth' his greatest-ever PR coup.

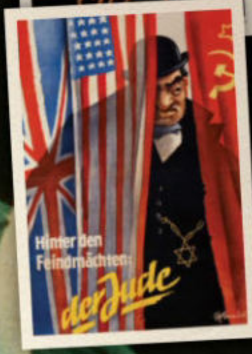


Strong German morale

"One struggle, one victory"

1943

When the tide began to turn against Hitler's armies post-Stalingrad, he tried to maintain public resolve with this campaign celebrating ten years of Nazi rule.



Anti-Semitism

"Behind the enemy: the Jews"

1945

The Nazis stepped up their anti-Semitic efforts as the defeats mounted, hoping to boost German solidarity by claiming Germany was the victim of an international Jewish-led conspiracy.

Art & Culture

The Nazi regime was well disposed toward cultural activity – as long as it served the state, of course

The cultural liberality enjoyed under the Weimar Republic was anathema to the Nazis who regarded artistic expression as devoid of moral fortitude.

Modernist endeavours were to the Nazis synonymous with Jewry, and they dismissed any form of abstract art – like Expressionism or Cubism – or atonal music. Jazz was despised, given its link with African-Americans. Feminism, too, was the work of the non-Aryans, they said.

The Propaganda Ministry formed the Reich Music Chamber, which celebrated composer Richard Strauss headed up before his removal in 1935, to promote music by Germany's great classical masters, such as Beethoven and Brahms. Hitler was said to be a fan of Richard Wagner's operas, which celebrated Teutonic myths and culture. The nation, however, preferred common songs and popular music, so the Third Reich struggled to regiment its populace's listening culture.

The Nazis did enjoy great success, however, with their control of cinema, which Göbbels recognised as a vital tool in his propaganda mission, establishing a Reich film chamber in 1933. During the year Hitler came to power, 64 Hollywood films screened in Germany. By 1940 that number had fallen to just five. Disney cartoons remained popular, but the vast majority of films financed by the regime contained some form of political message. Among the most famous – and recognised as ahead of their time by modern film historians – were the works of Leni Riefenstahl, such as *The Triumph Of The Will*, a documentary on the 1934 Nuremberg Rally, and *Olympia*, about the Olympic Games held in Berlin two years later.

Religion

Though Hitler never officially renounced his faith, by 1939 the Nazis had effectively severed their link with the Church

Religion was a perplexing problem for the Nazis. Almost 60 per cent of the German population was Protestant, primarily organised under the German Evangelical Church, which from 1933 the Nazis sought to bring under the auspices of a centralised Reich Church.

However, many pastors resisted the move, with a group of around 5,000 dissidents forming the Confessional Church, which opposed Nazi interference in religious affairs. The Roman Catholic Church, meanwhile, proved even more confounding as its members (around 30 per cent of the population) looked outside Germany, to Rome, for spiritual leadership.

To begin with, Hitler worked with the Catholics, forging a concordat with the Vatican where the papacy recognised Nazi power while the new regime agreed to leave the Catholic Church to its own devices inside Germany. However, the Nazis remained hostile to the Catholics and murdered a number of leading religious figures, such as Fritz Gerlich, on 1934's infamous Night of the Long Knives.

Relations had broken down by 1937, when Pope Pius XI decided the Catholic Church could no longer remain silent in the face of mounting Nazi suppression and he wrote to his bishops, attacking the Nazi attitude toward Catholicism. Not surprisingly, the Nazis did not take the move well and by 1939 a series of aggressive measures had diminished considerably the Catholic Church's influence in Germany. The Church never provided any effective resistance to the Third Reich.

Ludwig Mueller being installed as Reich bishop of Germany in 1933

Economy

Production of military machinery was stepped up dramatically in the 1930s

Impending confrontation with the world's largest superpowers required an economic transformation

In German homes, February 1933, families gather around the radio to hear Hitler talk of his assault on unemployment. The economic depression that hit in 1929 and 1930 had a devastating effect on a German economy only recently recovered from the aftermath of World War I. By 1932, one in three workers was out of work. Hitler would save the German worker, agricultural or industrial. "Within four years", he declared, "unemployment must be overcome."

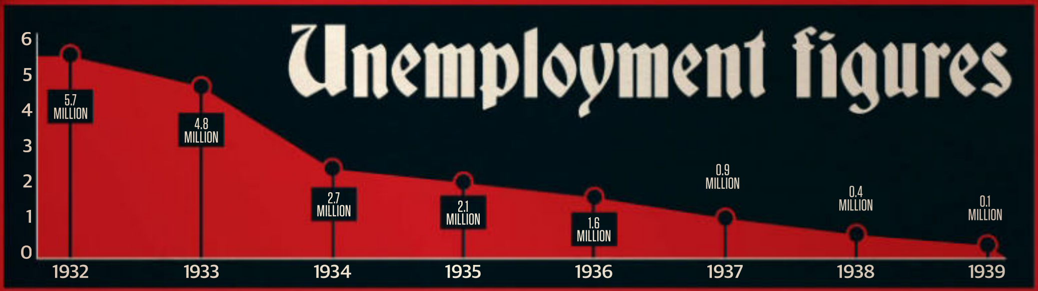
The Nazis succeeded in creating jobs, though much of their success was built on policies introduced by the previous regime, and the figures were skewed by influencing factors such as the Nazis' bid to take women out of work, thereby creating jobs for the male labour force. They also reintroduced conscription in 1935, which again provided employment for young men, while their attack on undesirables removed them from the state's economic figures.

The head of the Reichsbank, Hjalmar Schacht, oversaw an economic recovery between 1933 and 1936, as the Nazis embarked on a huge public-works programme, granting tax concessions for businesses to take on more staff, and taking their first steps toward rearmament.

The Nazis also replaced the trade unions of the Weimar Republic with the German Labour Front ('Deutsches Arbeitsfront'), which became the largest organisation in the country, focusing its efforts on worker morale, encouraging people to sign up to Hitler's 'People's Community' ideal.

From 1936, Herman Göring, the man charged with rebuilding the Luftwaffe, took control of economic matters and he helped execute the aggressive Four Year Plan, which strove to make Germany war-ready by 1940. Rearmament accelerated. In 1939, German military spending stood at 25 per cent of its national income, compared to 16 per cent in Britain and just one per cent in the United States.

Under the Four Year Plan, Göring aimed to make Germany self-sufficient and the Nazi propaganda machine went into overdrive, encouraging the people to remain patriotic in their purchasing, always buying German. Hiking and package holidays became national pleasures, with the propaganda machine falsely playing up a rise in living standards. Unemployment fell during the 1930s, but the aggressive rearmament policy led to shortages of key commodities and longer working hours for many. The consumption of higher-quality foods – meat, bacon, milk, eggs, fish vegetables, sugar, tropical fruit and beer – also diminished.



Unemployment figures

Law & Order

The Nazi concept of law and order emanated from the Führer, not the existing legal system...

On 1 April 1933, just a few days after the Enabling Act had granted Hitler supreme control, the SS are at work. In Annaberg, a small district in Saxony, they gather in numbers outside shops and seize the exiting customers. Roughing them up, the SS men then press a rubber stamp against each person's head that read, "We traitors bought from Jews."

Despite the date, this was no April Fools hoax, but a carefully organised 'Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses', a one-day bout of aggression that represented the start of a relentless and ever-more hostile campaign of violence against Jews, which would culminate in the horror of the Holocaust and the Final Solution. The SS were present from the outset.

In truth, the Nazis had employed sporadic if intense bouts of violence during their rise to power, but in the aftermath of the Reichstag fire and the subsequent Enabling Act, this aggression became much more ruthless and organised, with the SS and Gestapo emerging as the key executors of the state's will.

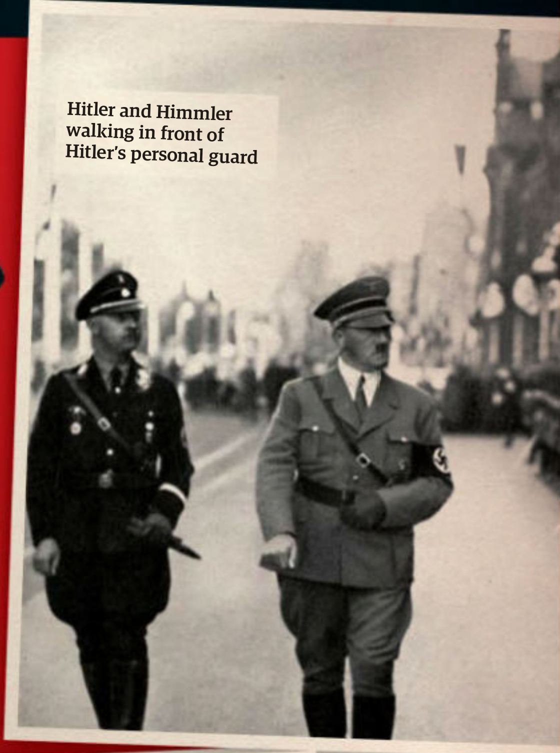
The SS were formed as Hitler's personal bodyguard in 1926, and following his rise to power they became his most trusted executor of political repression, overseeing the concentration camps within Germany, and then the death camps established in the occupied territories from 1942 onward.

Members of the lower echelons of the Nazi Party, the Block leaders, were told to spy on their locale, searching for signs of dissent that could be passed on for Gestapo investigation. By 1936, both outfits were brought under the control of Heinrich Himmler, who took charge of all state policing, directing his efforts against Hitler's political opponents on the left. Any anti-Nazi ideology was deemed a threat to the state.

Despite the repressive policies promoted in this newly formed police state, the Nazi's careful use of propaganda, along with improving economic conditions, ensured that most people accepted the status quo, even if they had to endure the paranoia induced by laws such as that on Malicious Gossip, which punished any criticism of the government, even via humour, with up to five years in prison.

> The Nazi regime took over the role of the legal system and in the early-1930s started to decide what was deemed illegal

With the swift removal of the Nazis' chief political opponents, policies were soon concentrated on race purification. This meant removing non-Aryans from German society and also deleting people deemed 'asocial', a grouping that included 'the workshy', thieves and delinquents, homosexuals and the mentally ill. None of the above had a place among the new breed of Nazi supermen and the state introduced a sterilisation programme, believing many of these 'flaws' were hereditary.


Hitler and Himmler walking in front of Hitler's personal guard

The aftermath of the Soviet secret police's mass murders of political prisoners in Ukraine, after a German attack on the city

The Undesirables

Jews

The Jews suffered viciously from the outset, though the violence became increasingly extreme, leading to the Final Solution, a policy laid down in 1942 to rid the German empire of the 'Jewish menace' once and for all. Even at the beginning of the Nazi reign, Jews sent to concentration camps in Germany were often attacked mercilessly by the SS and by other inmates. During the war, the Nazis established more than 400 ghettos in a bid to isolate Jews from the non-Jewish population.

Gypsies

The Roma, commonly known as gypsies, were widely persecuted throughout Germany and Europe even before the Nazis' rise to power. Post 1936, Himmler established the Reich Central Office for the Suppression of the Gypsy Nuisance, designed specifically to persecute Roma and subjecting them to the Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Progeny, and the Law against Dangerous Habitual Criminals. Many Roma were sterilised.

The disabled

It was not just the non-Aryans who were to be cleansed from Germany's precious gene pool; the mentally and physically disabled were also believed to be surplus to requirements. One propaganda poster from the time carries a slogan claiming that "these sick people cost 60,000 RM during their lifetime." In addition, Hitler not only encouraged sterilisation, but also euthanasia of handicapped people, a move that became ever-more heightened as the war progressed.

Homosexuals

Homosexuality was illegal in most European countries at the time, although the liberal Weimar Republic turned a blind eye. But the Nazis regarded it as abhorrent. Indeed, Hitler and Himmler justified its Night of the Long Knives attack on the leaders of the SA, the Storm Division of the Nazi party, by claiming that homosexuality was rife within the group and needed stamping out. It is thought that around 50,000 men were imprisoned for homosexuality during the Third Reich.

Crime & Punishment

Treason	Almost all activities of opposition groups were punishable by death or imprisonment and hard labour for life. These activities could include acts of sabotage, anti-Nazi radio broadcasts, printing or the circulation or smuggling into Germany of forbidden literature.
Criticism of Nazi regime	It is said that as many as 80 per cent of all political trials held between 1934 and 1938 were based on the Law on Malicious Gossip, whereby vocal criticism of the government could be punished by up to five years in prison.
Habitual criminality	Any person who was convicted of a criminal offense for the third time was not only given a prison term of many years, but was after the expiration of his term, placed in "preventive custody" for an indefinite time.

Opposition

Opposing the Nazi state was a dangerous and often futile move

General Ludwig Beck was opposed to Hitler's expansionist policies

Within six months of taking power, the Nazi regime had obliterated its political antagonists with a sustained attack on the left-wing parties, the SPD and the KPD, and they absorbed the unions that had been such a thorn in the side of earlier regimes into their own German Labour Front. Even when workers did seek to voice legitimate grievances, they no longer had the architecture with which to organise their protests. With the exception of Jehovah's Witnesses, the major religious groups also failed to coordinate an effective line of resistance.

Arguably the most famous resistance – and potentially the most effective – came from within the armed forces. However, Hitler's opponents were relatively small in number and their concerns were centred more on the Führer's bid to take them into a war for which they were not yet prepared, rather than on ideological concerns.

A plot against Hitler emerged in 1938, as he prepared for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which was led by General Ludwig Beck. An envoy was sent to London and to Paris to gather support from the European superpowers, but both Britain and France preferred to engage in diplomacy with Hitler's regime and the plot fizzled out. Further coups were launched during World War II, but if Beck had succeeded in 1938, war may have been averted altogether, with millions of lives saved the world over.

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THE HUNT FOR THE REAL KING ARTHUR

King, emperor, hero, god – the name King Arthur conjures an array of images, but just how much truth is there to this ancient legend?

Written by Frances White

The armoured bodies lay so thick on the ground that as the rain pelted the field, it fell with an incessant ding-ding-ding upon metal. There remained but two figures facing each other across the plain; one raised his head toward the other, his visor masking his face and his black spiked armour glinting as the rain ran down the polished surface. The other stood against the setting sun, his helmet lost and his long golden hair wet against his forehead. There were wrinkles around his eyes, flecks of grey in his beard and dinks in his gleaming silver armour, but he grasped his long sword with a strong, firm grip. His foe was the first to move, stabbing his sword forward with a jerky, sudden jab. The silver knight deflected him easily with a swift, fluid movement and thrust his sword forward, driving it through his enemy's chest. The gleaming sword sliced through the armour like silk. But his foe had landed a blow too, blood seeping from his mouth, and with his final ounce of strength he drove his sword through the silver knight's back. There was a moment of silence as the wind moved around them, then the two fell as one.

The tale depicts the legendary Battle of Camlann, a conflict that saw the demise of one of the most famous kings in British history, a monarch so ingrained in the national conscience that his tale appears on the halls of the British Parliament. A figure with such prominence that some are so desperate to prove he was real that great excavations and archaeological digs are held in his name – King Arthur.

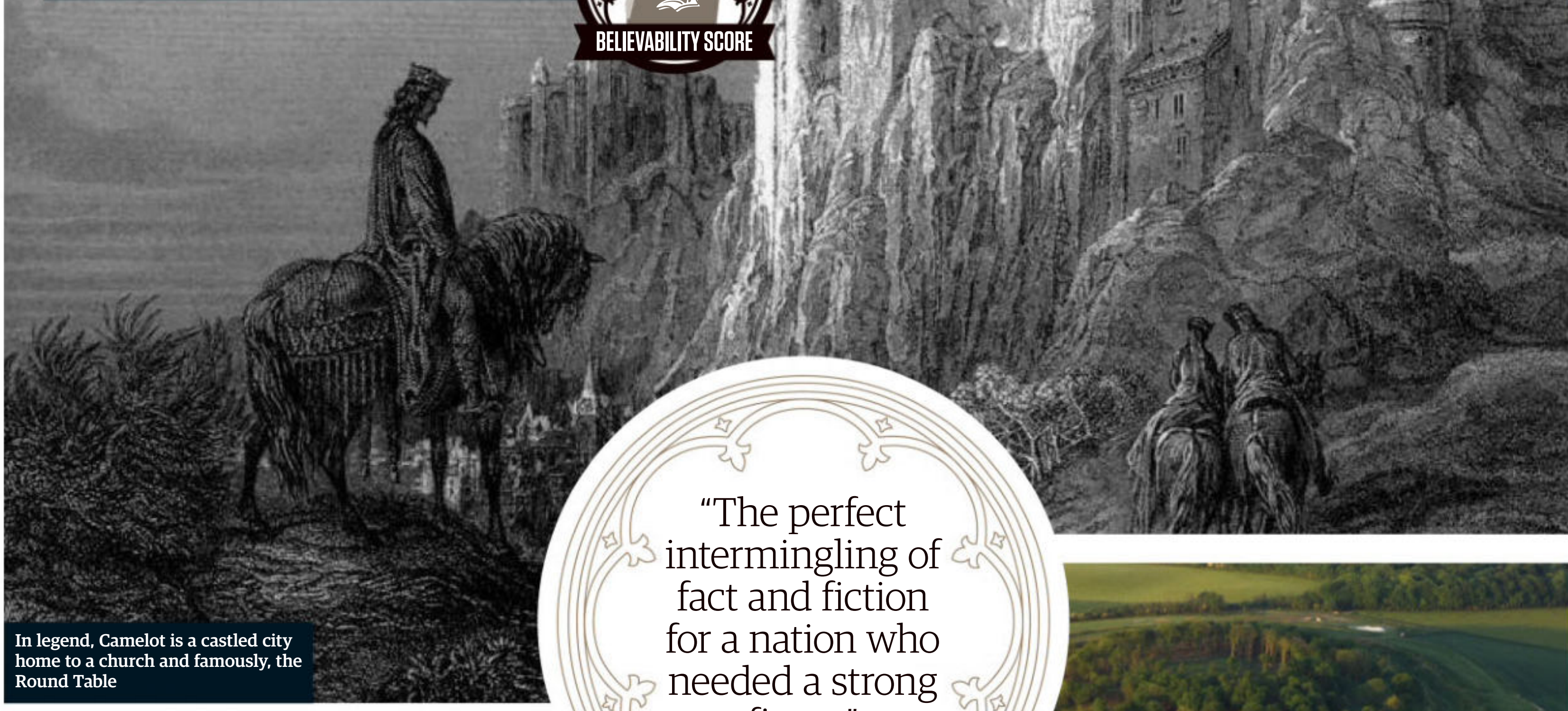
But who was Arthur really? Did this 'King of the Britons' ever even exist? Or is he simply a myth created to inspire a population in need of heroes? Although historians have failed to agree on who exactly may have inspired the King Arthur we know today, there are many viable candidates. Lucius Artorius Castus, a Roman soldier of the late-2nd or early-3rd century is a possible Arthur. This career warrior supposedly led troops of Sarmatians against invading Caledonians in ancient Britain, all the while grasping a standard bearing a large red dragon pendant – the inspiration for Arthur's surname 'Pendragon.' Historians hypothesise his military

"A host of Celtic literature depicting glorious victories against the invading armies infested the folklore"

Camelot

The legendary castle of Camelot is at the centre of many Arthurian legends and serves as the home of the mighty King Arthur and his court. Said to stand along a river in the middle of a thick forest, Camelot is often portrayed as a towering structure of impressive architecture and a symbol of chivalry and might. The first mention of Camelot is in the Chrétien de Troyes' poem *Lancelot, The Knight Of The Cart* written in the 1170s, but it is only in passing, and Caerleon is identified as Arthur's home, a town in Wales. It wasn't until the 13th century that Camelot became more prominent. Arguments concerning its actual location still continue; many believe it is in Carlisle or even Cadbury Castle in Somerset, but Thomas Malory firmly placed Camelot in Winchester, which encouraged the iconic depiction of the castle. For many Camelot is not a literal place, but rather a representation of Arthur's power and the realm the characters inhabited.

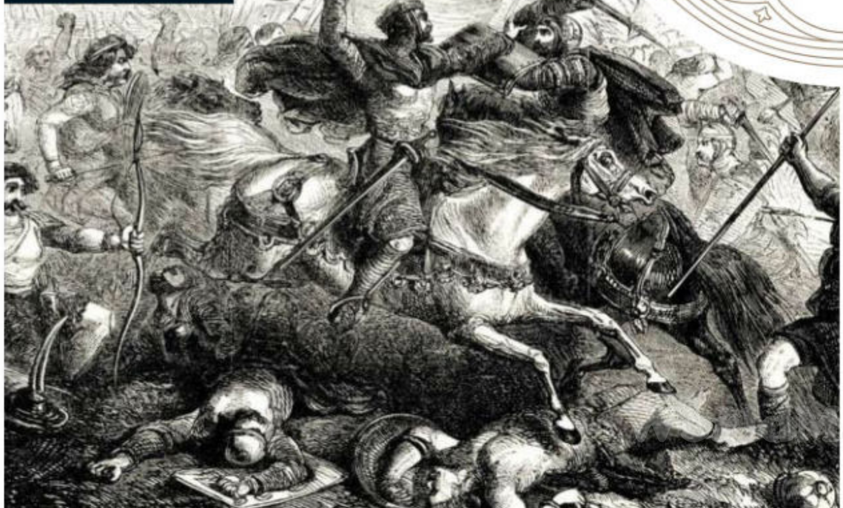
3
BELIEVABILITY SCORE



In legend, Camelot is a castled city home to a church and famously, the Round Table

> "The perfect intermingling of fact and fiction for a nation who needed a strong figure"

A depiction of King Arthur fighting Saxons in the 6th century



Badbury Rings in Dorset is said to be the site where King Arthur won his greatest victory against the Saxons

ags.net

A monument for the Lady in the Lake, a mythical figure connected to Arthur

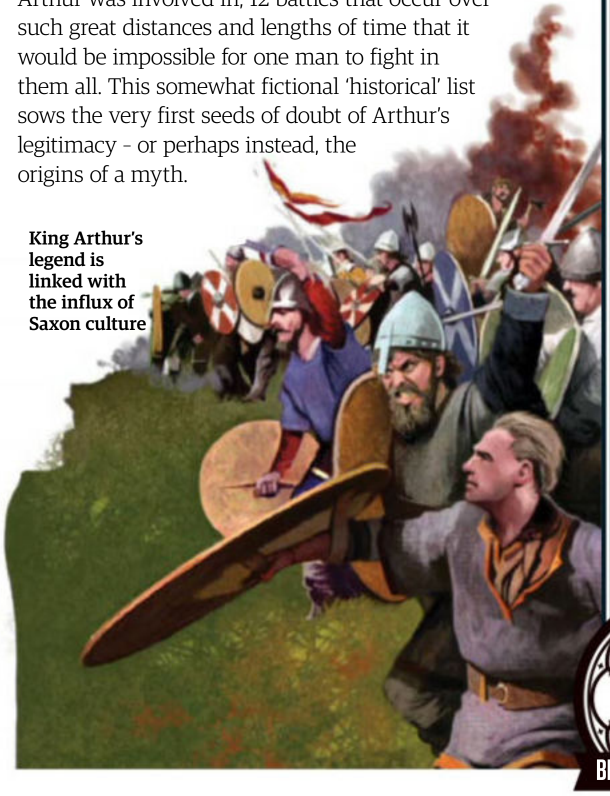
victories prompted him to be raised to a figure of great bravery among the Welsh, and thus the character of Arthur was born. The problem with Artorius, just like Arthur, is that there is a staggering lack of historical recording of his supposed impressive deeds, which people would expect from a figure so prominent he became a near-immortal legend.

A man actually called 'King of the Britons' in ancient sources is Riothamus who lived in the 5th century. Riothamus reportedly travelled into Gaul twice, just as Arthur did, and was betrayed by a close friend, just as Arthur was. And when Riothamus died he was near a town called Avallon, while Arthur was supposedly carried off to 'Avalon' upon his death. Comparisons have also been drawn between Arthur and Ambrosius Aurelianus, a Romano-British leader who was well known for his victorious campaigns against the Saxons. There are also theories that Aurelianus commanded the forces at the Battle of Bandon Hill, the very same battle where Arthur apparently led an army. Aurelianus is recorded as having the virtues of a 'gentleman' and was a Christian – two key qualities Arthur shares.

One of the more unusual origin theories of Arthur's origin comes from his name itself. Deriving from the Celtic word 'Art', meaning 'bear', it is possible that Arthur is simply a personification of a Celtic bear god. The Celtic tradition of worshipping revered animal spirits was popular, so it would make sense for their celebrated hero to originate from such beliefs.

There are plenty more candidates for possible Arthurs, as any warrior who was successful in ancient Briton with a vaguely similar name seems to be a feasible option, whether any of these are actually the true Arthur of legend we may never know, but one thing we can trace reasonably accurately is Arthur's emergence and journey through literature.

The very earliest mention of Arthur is in *Historia Brittonum* written in 830 by Nennius, a Welsh monk, which says: "Then in those days Arthur fought against them with the kings of the Britons, but he was commander in those battles." Because of the vague mention it is difficult to assess whether this Arthur was actually a king himself or simply a mighty warrior. Nevertheless he goes on to list 12 battles Arthur was involved in, 12 battles that occur over such great distances and lengths of time that it would be impossible for one man to fight in them all. This somewhat fictional 'historical' list sows the very first seeds of doubt of Arthur's legitimacy – or perhaps instead, the origins of a myth.



King Arthur's legend is linked with the influx of Saxon culture

Geoffrey of Monmouth recorded (falsely) that Ambrosius Aurelianus ordered the building of Stonehenge

ARTHUR WAS A WARRIOR

Although it may be impossible to pin an exact person to King Arthur, it is more likely that his deeds and fighting prowess were inspired by real-world heroes. It is commonly believed that Arthur was based on a Roman warrior who led the British against the invading Saxon forces during the 5th and 6th centuries. The conflict at Badon Hill is mentioned in one of the sources of the Saxon invasion. King Arthur has been linked to this battle but his name was not actually mentioned at all in the original source. The Battle of Badon reportedly saw the Britons halt the Saxon expansion thanks to the leadership of Ambrosius Aurelianus. It is also written that after the success at Badon Hill all the people of Britain, kings and commoners alike "lived orderly according to their several vocations", indicating a period of great peace and unity after the battle, backed up by archaeological evidence. Because the sources are so limited it is impossible to ascertain any details or legitimacy about the battle, but it does not take a leap of imagination to imagine that if such a victory did occur it would help to inspire creation of many figures of lore.

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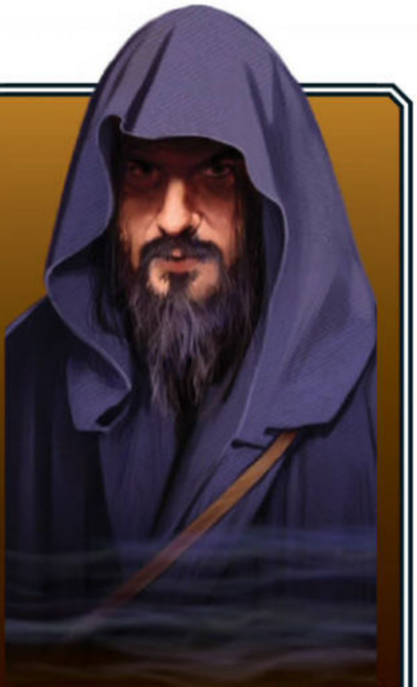
BELIEVABILITY SCORE



MERLIN

Merlin the wizard is almost as famous as King Arthur himself, born of a mortal woman and an incubus. Merlin inherited powerful magical powers and became a sage. He then manufactured the birth of Arthur and served as an advisor to the young king. Commonly depicted as a wise old man dressed in a tall hat and long flowing robes, Merlin first appeared in his recognisable form in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* but he is likely a combination of many mythical figures of Welsh folklore.

One of these was the 6th-century Welsh bard Myrddin – a legendary figure who was the combination of prophet and madman. Monmouth combined this famous mythical figure with the Romano-British war leader Ambrosius Aurenlianus – who many believe was the real life Arthur – and named his character Merlin Ambrosius. The wise old wizard character became popular and was incorporated into many later adaptations such as a poem by Robert de Boron. Merlin became intrinsically linked to King Arthur's tales and entered the cultural mythology along with him. Despite there being absolutely no historical basis for his existence, many travel to Brittany to visit his alleged burial place in the legendary forest of Broceliande.

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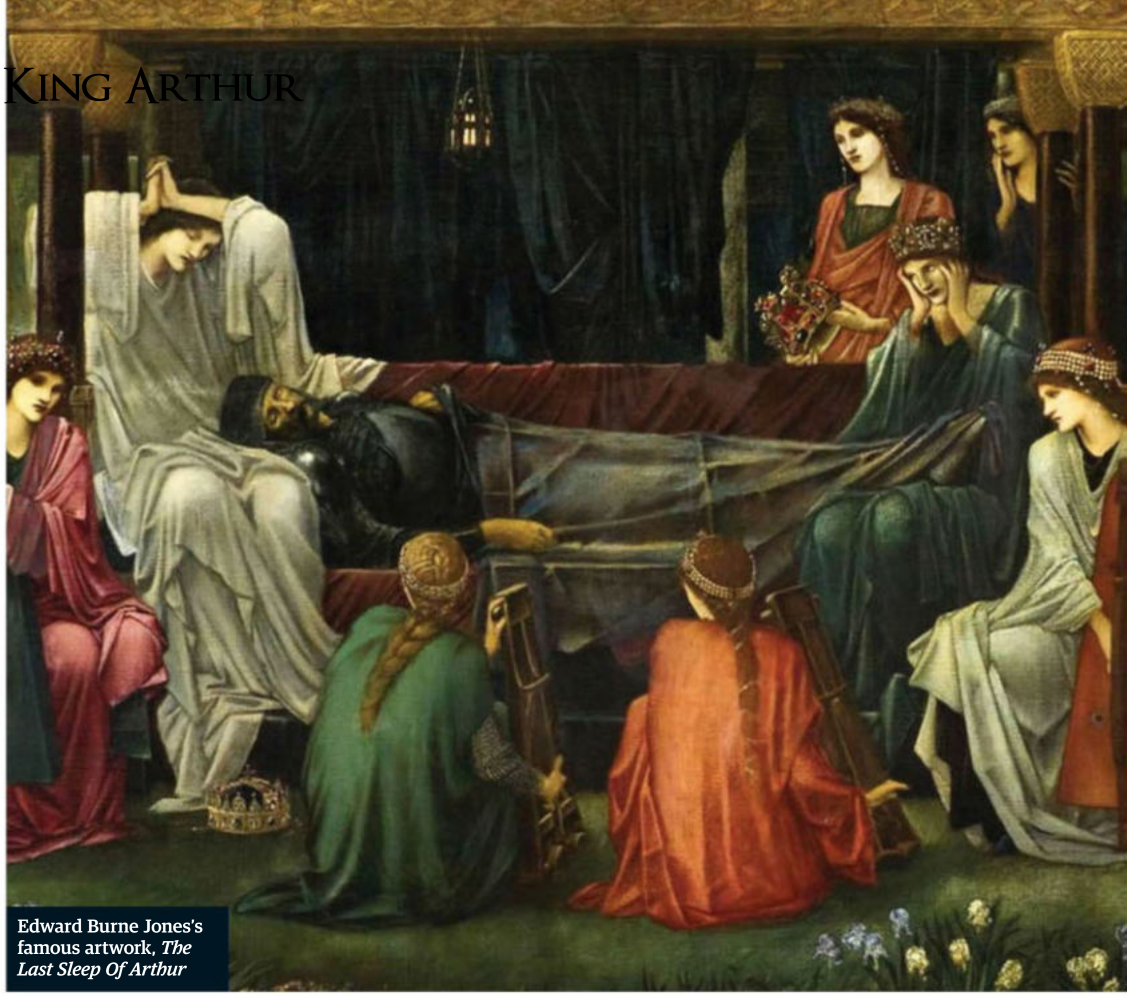
BELIEVABILITY SCORE



Edward Burne Jones's famous artwork, *The Last Sleep Of Arthur*

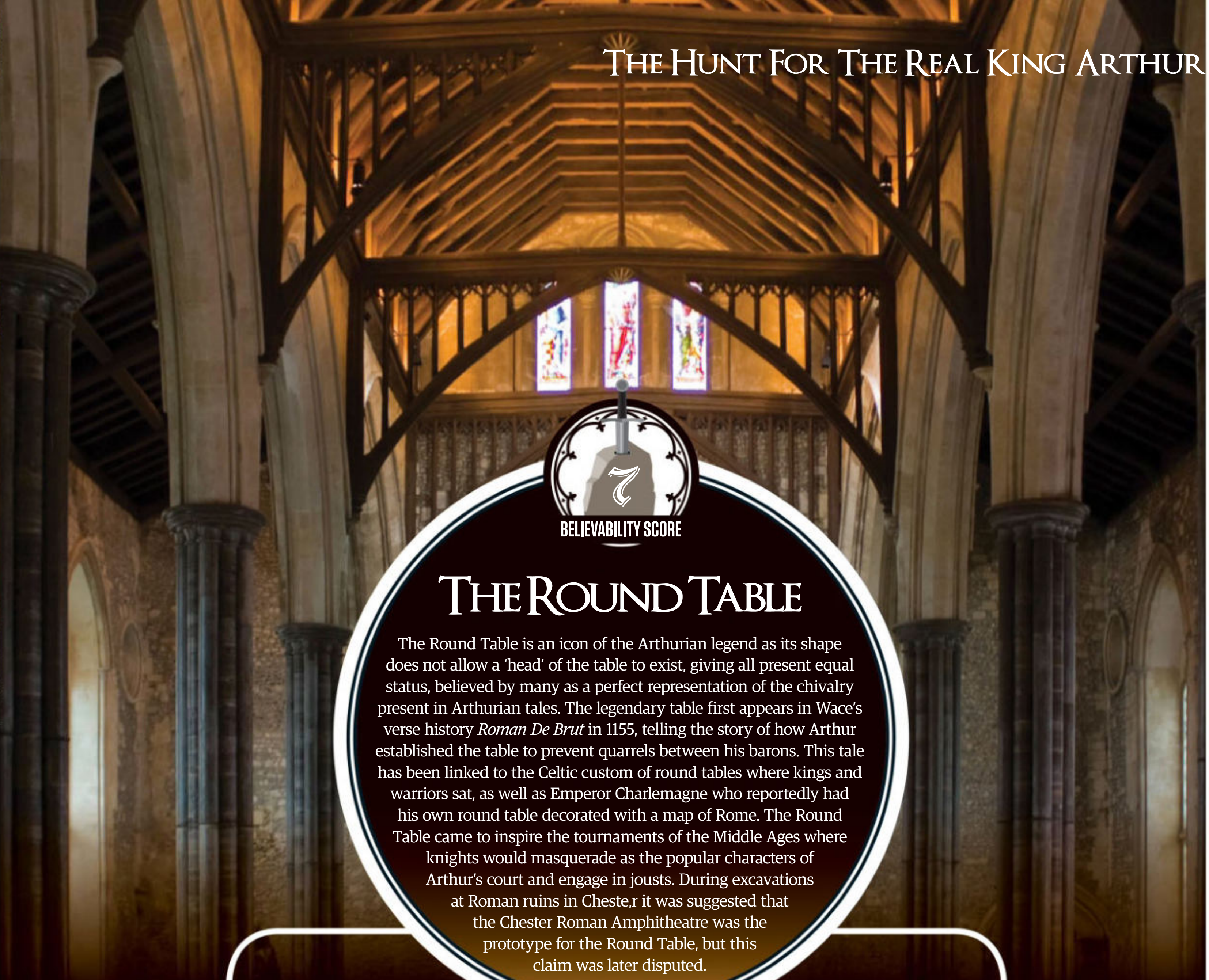
The next time Arthur crops up is in the work of Geoffrey of Monmouth, another Welsh cleric. In his mammoth chronicle *Historia Regum Britanniae*, Arthur takes on new life and some of the best-known parts of his tale come into being. Apparently based on a lost Celtic manuscript that – conveniently enough – only Geoffrey was able to read, the apparent historical book details the story of King Arthur's life from his birth to his betrayal and death. This is also the first instance we are introduced to some of the most famous people in his story, such as Guinevere and Merlin. The book was an instant success and 200 manuscripts are still around today – a tremendous number for a Medieval work, which demonstrates just how successful it was. But why did the Britons take on this tale of an ancient king so enthusiastically? What was it about Arthur that made him so popular?

The answer is pretty simple, and rather cliché – Britain needed a hero. After the Norman invasion of 1066 the kingdom was in turmoil, and it wasn't just Arthur's tale that emerged – a host of Celtic literature depicting glorious victories against the invading armies infested the folklore. These tales became interlinked with history, demonstrating the illustrious and noble past of the Celts. Geoffrey's tale of a strong Celtic king who defeated the barbarians and waged war against the Romans, which was subtly and cleverly linked to real-world events, like the battle of Mount Badon (which Arthur is not mentioned in relation to until *Historia Brittonum*) was the perfect intermingling of fact and fiction for a nation that needed a strong figure to help them keep a hold on their identity.

> "It is possible that Arthur is simply a personification of a Celtic bear god"

However, it was Arthur's emergence into French culture that gave the tale some of its most notable aspects. When Henry II married Eleanor of Aquitaine, the very English world of Arthur was introduced into the romantic and sublime world of French literature. One of the most famous French writers of the period, Chrétien de Troyes, was enraptured by the idea of the noble warrior king and penned new tales of Arthur and his court, transforming him from a mighty warrior into a leader of a spiritual quest, turning his world from one of blood and steel to courtly romance and the search for the mysterious Holy Grail. The iconic Holy Grail first appeared in Chrétien's poem *Perceval, The Story Of The Grail*, which he claimed was written from a source given to him by Philip, Count of Flanders.

It is unclear whether people in the Medieval era considered Arthur fact, fiction or a mixture of both, but just 100 years after Monmouth's book was published one person was very keen to demonstrate it was as close to fact as it could be



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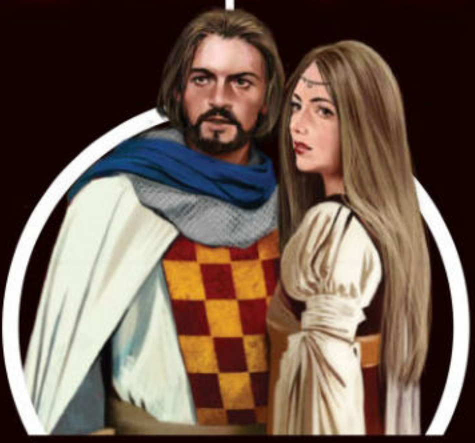
BELIEVABILITY SCORE

THE ROUND TABLE

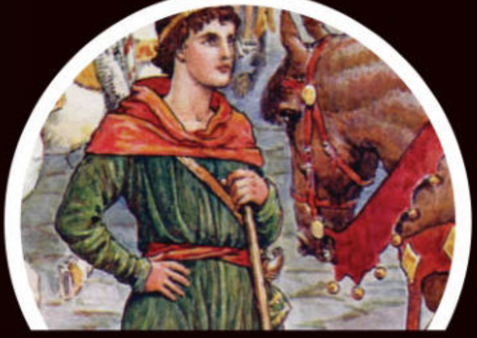
The Round Table is an icon of the Arthurian legend as its shape does not allow a 'head' of the table to exist, giving all present equal status, believed by many as a perfect representation of the chivalry present in Arthurian tales. The legendary table first appears in Wace's verse history *Roman De Brut* in 1155, telling the story of how Arthur established the table to prevent quarrels between his barons. This tale has been linked to the Celtic custom of round tables where kings and warriors sat, as well as Emperor Charlemagne who reportedly had his own round table decorated with a map of Rome. The Round Table came to inspire the tournaments of the Middle Ages where knights would masquerade as the popular characters of Arthur's court and engage in jousts. During excavations at Roman ruins in Cheste,r it was suggested that the Chester Roman Amphitheatre was the prototype for the Round Table, but this claim was later disputed.



SIR LANCELOT

POSITION: CHAMPION KNIGHT
MAIN SKILLS: SWORDMANSHIP, BRAVERY

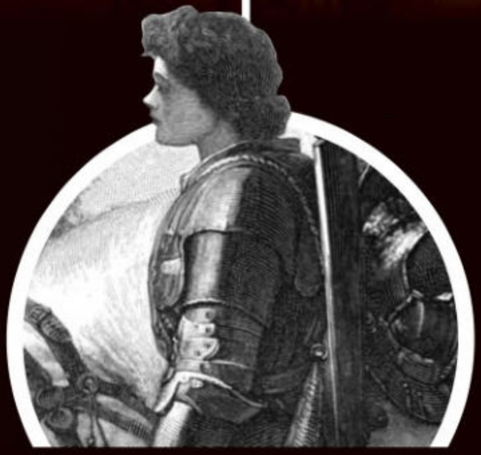
Lancelot began as just one of the Knights of the Round Table, then rose to prominence as Arthur's finest champion, but his affair with Queen Guinevere is believed to have caused Arthur's death and doomed the kingdom. He later becomes a priest in regret of his betrayal.



SIR PERCIVAL

POSITION: KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE
MAIN SKILLS: RISING THROUGH SOCIAL RANKS

Raised in the woods by his mother, when Percival witnessed passing knights he was inspired to join them. He became involved in the search for the Holy Grail, accompanying Galahad on his quest, in some versions playing the hero himself.

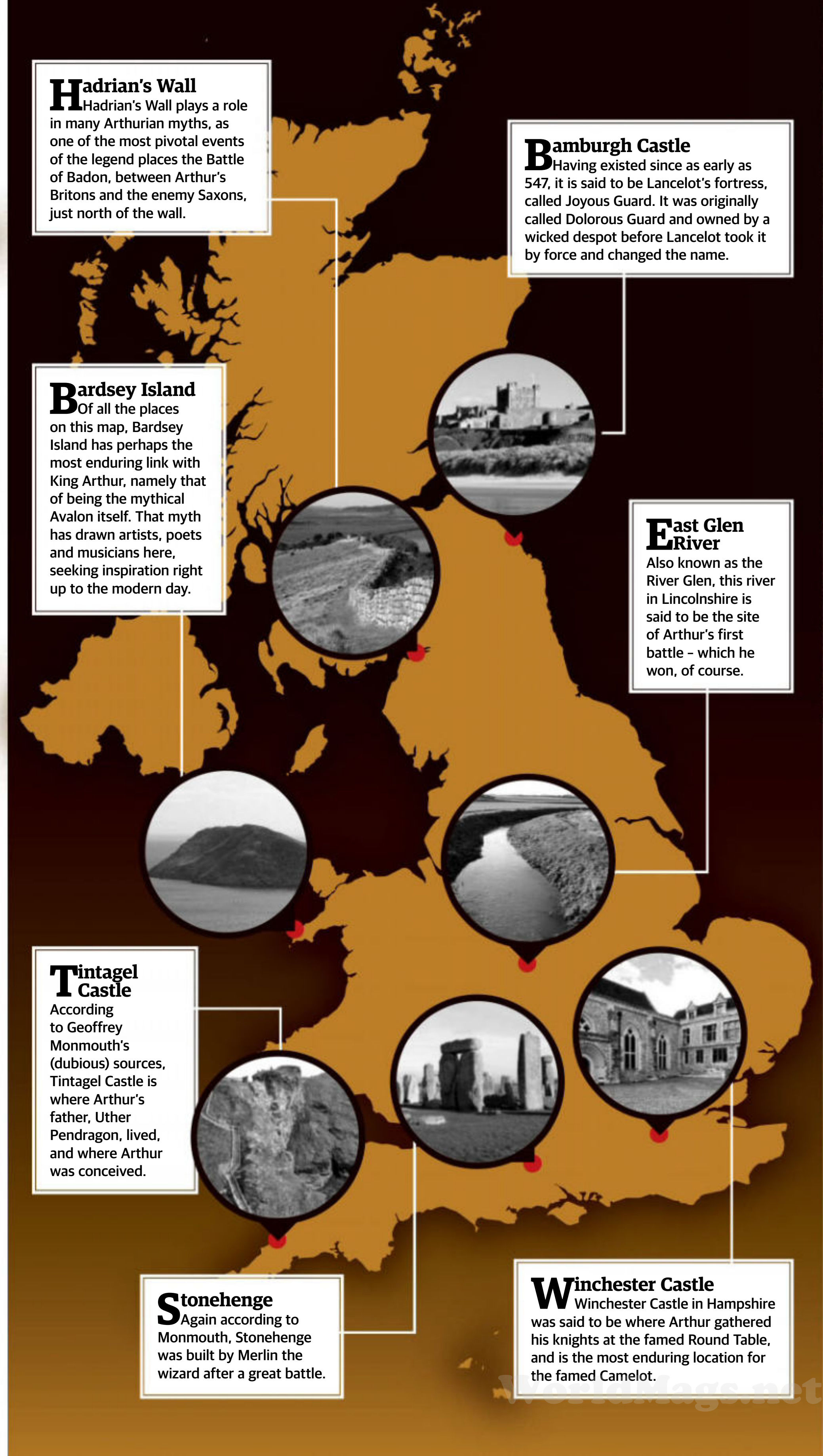


SIR GALAHAD

POSITION: KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE
MAIN SKILLS: SAVING MAIDENS IN DISTRESS

Galahad was the son of Lancelot and Elaine of Corbenic, who the knights mistook for Queen Guinevere. According to legend, Galahad went on to become one of the greatest knights in the world and ultimately discovered the Holy Grail before ascending to heaven.

LANDMARKS OF THE ARTHURIAN LEGEND



Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall plays a role in many Arthurian myths, as one of the most pivotal events of the legend places the Battle of Badon, between Arthur's Britons and the enemy Saxons, just north of the wall.

Bamburgh Castle

Having existed since as early as 547, it is said to be Lancelot's fortress, called Joyous Guard. It was originally called Dolorous Guard and owned by a wicked despot before Lancelot took it by force and changed the name.

Bardsey Island

Of all the places on this map, Bardsey Island has perhaps the most enduring link with King Arthur, namely that of being the mythical Avalon itself. That myth has drawn artists, poets and musicians here, seeking inspiration right up to the modern day.

East Glen River

Also known as the River Glen, this river in Lincolnshire is said to be the site of Arthur's first battle – which he won, of course.

Tintagel Castle

According to Geoffrey Monmouth's (dubious) sources, Tintagel Castle is where Arthur's father, Uther Pendragon, lived, and where Arthur was conceived.

Stonehenge

Again according to Monmouth, Stonehenge was built by Merlin the wizard after a great battle.

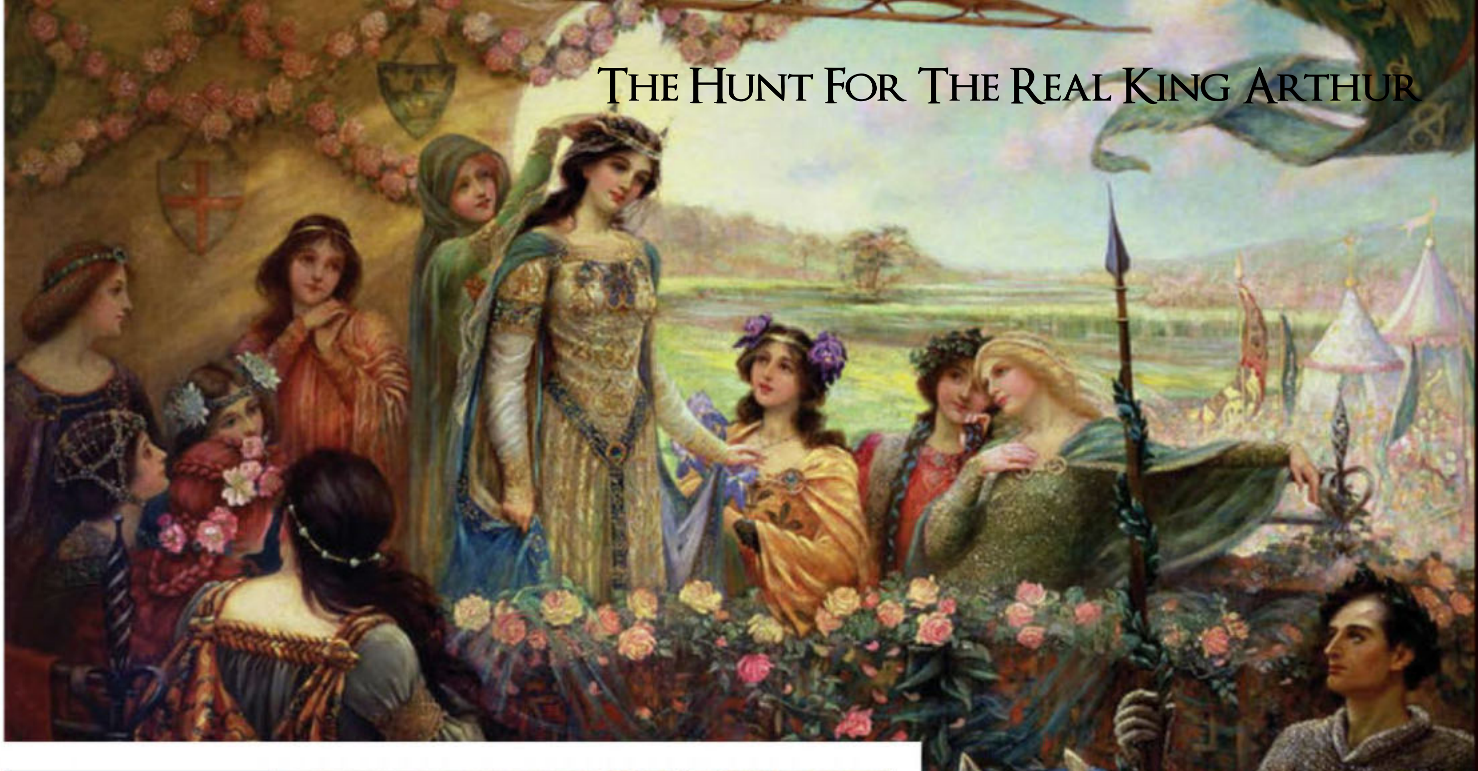
Winchester Castle

Winchester Castle in Hampshire was said to be where Arthur gathered his knights at the famed Round Table, and is the most enduring location for the famed Camelot.

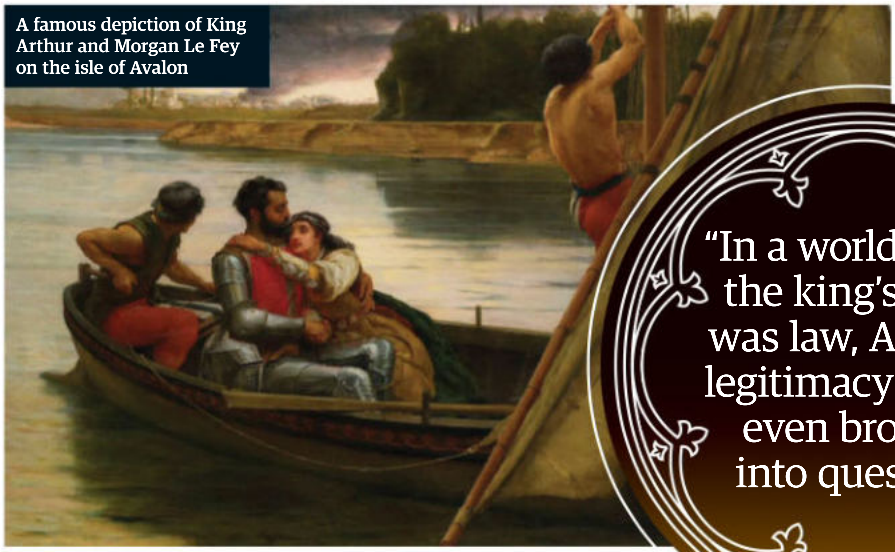
- King Edward. It would have been advantageous for the king who led a crusade of the Holy Land to prove his connection to the mightiest and most revered king in British history - Arthur. With his spin doctors demonstrating proof that Edward was a descendant of Arthur himself, it added weight to his right to unite all the people, and he successfully subjected a rebellious Wales to English law. In a world where the king's word was law, Arthur's legitimacy wasn't even brought into question.

Edward wasn't the last king to use the strength of Arthur's legend to cement his own hold on the throne. The Tudor monarchs claimed their lineage could be traced directly to the legendary king and used the power of the legend to prove the legitimacy of their claims to the English and Welsh thrones, vital for a dynasty that originated from an illegitimate child of English royalty.

Henry VIII was a very vocal supporter of King Arthur and the concept of honour, and even commissioned the Winchester Round Table, most likely created in the reign of Edward I, to be repainted with himself in the position of Arthur. Again in the midst of national change during the Industrial Revolution, Britain's monarch called upon the power of the legend of King Arthur,



An artist's illustration of Lancelot and Guinevere



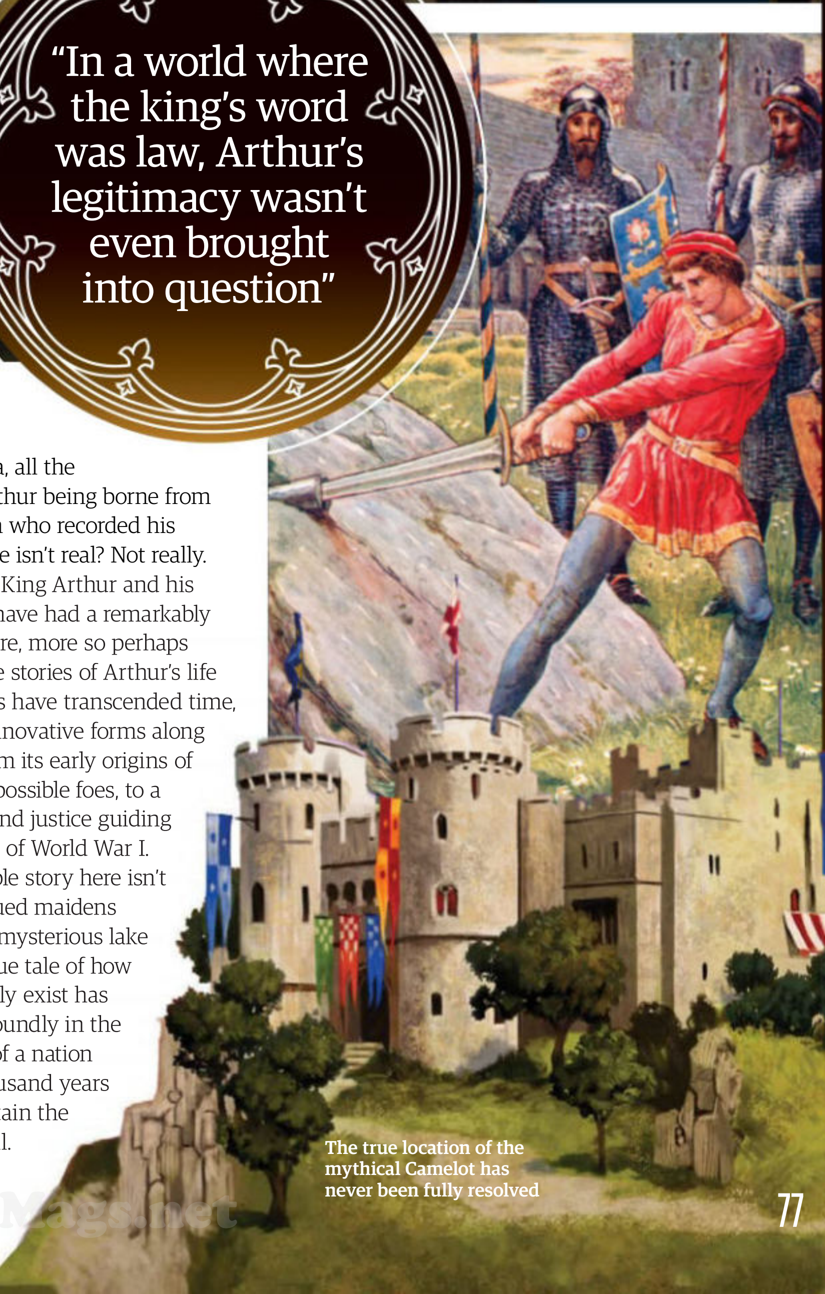
A famous depiction of King Arthur and Morgan Le Fey on the isle of Avalon

> "In a world where the king's word was law, Arthur's legitimacy wasn't even brought into question"

with Queen Victoria using the image of Arthur's chivalrous knights of the realm in connection with Britain's imperialist nature as the empire expanded. Bolstered by the people's faith that Britain was creating a worldwide Camelot, the British Empire grew to become the largest of all time.

It would be easy to assume from this that King Arthur was nothing more than a political ploy, an inspirational tale used by opportunists to further the power of British monarchs over the people, but Arthur's influence stretches further than that. More than a political myth, the story of Arthur's righteous and heroic court began to embody Britain itself. During the Middle Ages it was the Arthurian tales of just and noble conduct, of brave knights rescuing maidens in distress, that inspired the knights' code of chivalry. This idea of a knight's duty to his countrymen and fellow Christians helped to launch ships, win battles and change the political landscape of the world as we know it. This in turn encouraged the creation of a code of etiquette and morals that Britain is, for many, still defined by today.

So did the King Arthur we know of from the tales actually exist – drawing swords out of stones and taking advice from an elderly wizard? Almost certainly not. Although it's highly likely he was based on brave warriors of the era, all the evidence points to King Arthur being borne from the imagination of the men who recorded his tales. But does this mean he isn't real? Not really. Whether he existed or not, King Arthur and his tales of chivalrous victory have had a remarkably deep effect on British culture, more so perhaps than any living person. The stories of Arthur's life and his thrilling adventures have transcended time, developing into new and innovative forms along with the country itself. From its early origins of a noble warrior beating impossible foes, to a shining light of goodness and justice guiding the soldiers in the trenches of World War I. Perhaps the most remarkable story here isn't of an actual king who rescued maidens and accepted swords from mysterious lake dwellers, but instead the true tale of how someone who didn't actually exist has embedded himself so profoundly in the entire history and culture of a nation that even today, over a thousand years after his creation, we entertain the possibility of him being real.

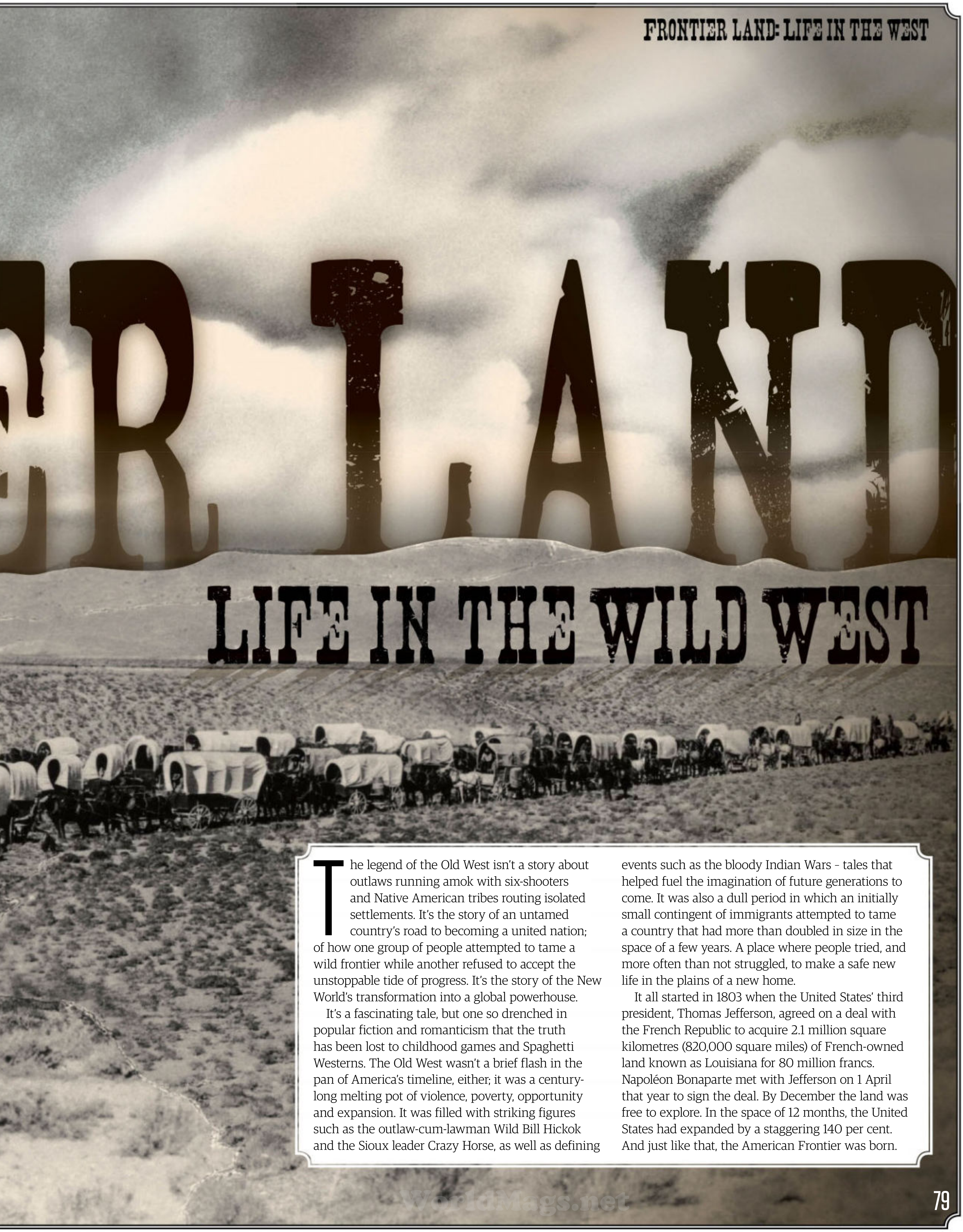


The true location of the mythical Camelot has never been fully resolved

In the world of Hollywood cinema, the Old West was an outlaw wilderness filled with trigger-happy cowboys and blood-thirsty Indians, but what was life really like out on the American Frontier?

Written by Dom Reseigh-Lincoln

FRONTIE



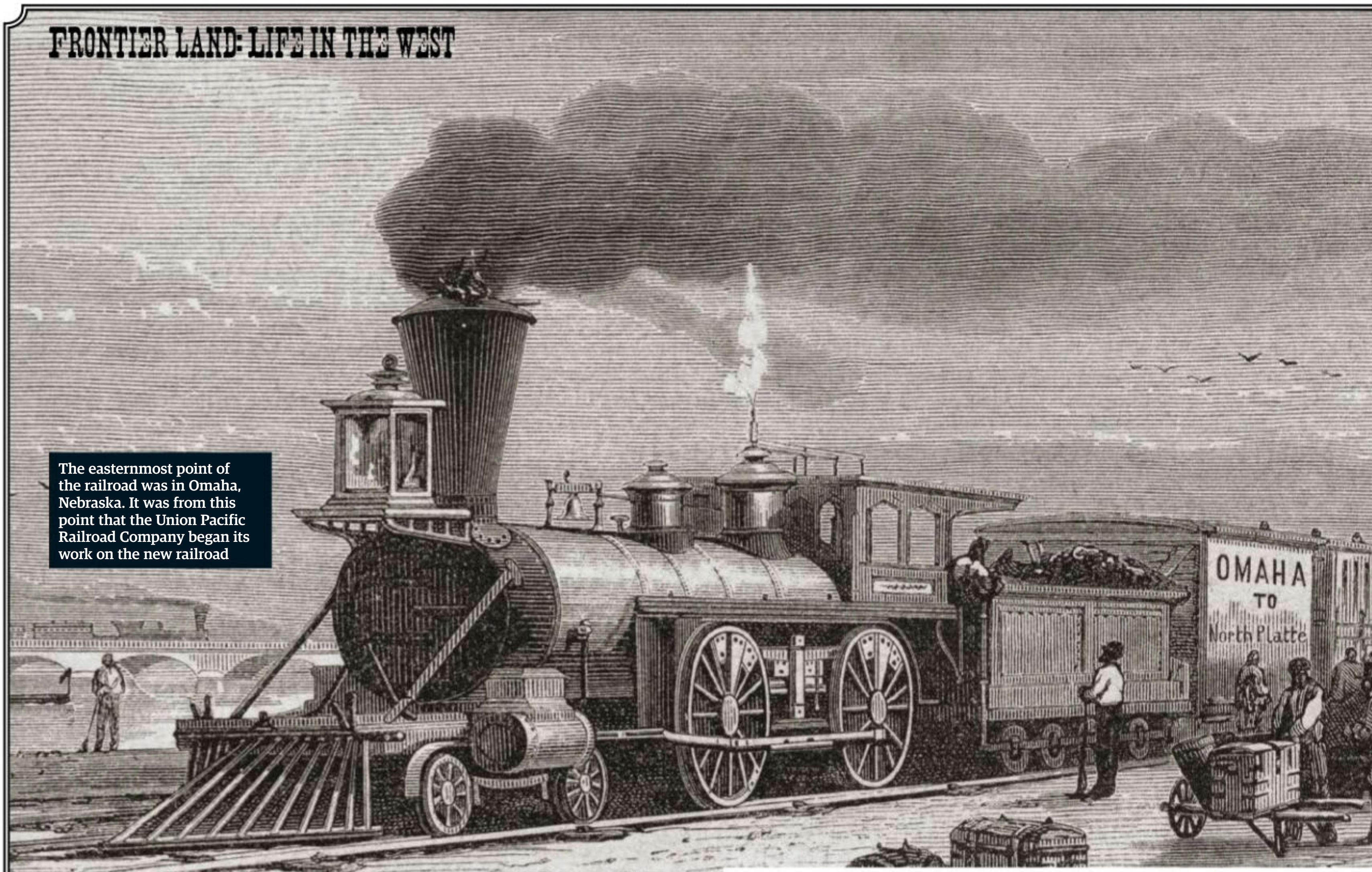
ER LAND

LIFE IN THE WILD WEST

The legend of the Old West isn't a story about outlaws running amok with six-shooters and Native American tribes routing isolated settlements. It's the story of an untamed country's road to becoming a united nation; of how one group of people attempted to tame a wild frontier while another refused to accept the unstoppable tide of progress. It's the story of the New World's transformation into a global powerhouse.

It's a fascinating tale, but one so drenched in popular fiction and romanticism that the truth has been lost to childhood games and Spaghetti Westerns. The Old West wasn't a brief flash in the pan of America's timeline, either; it was a century-long melting pot of violence, poverty, opportunity and expansion. It was filled with striking figures such as the outlaw-cum-lawman Wild Bill Hickok and the Sioux leader Crazy Horse, as well as defining events such as the bloody Indian Wars – tales that helped fuel the imagination of future generations to come. It was also a dull period in which an initially small contingent of immigrants attempted to tame a country that had more than doubled in size in the space of a few years. A place where people tried, and more often than not struggled, to make a safe new life in the plains of a new home.

It all started in 1803 when the United States' third president, Thomas Jefferson, agreed on a deal with the French Republic to acquire 2.1 million square kilometres (820,000 square miles) of French-owned land known as Louisiana for 80 million francs. Napoléon Bonaparte met with Jefferson on 1 April that year to sign the deal. By December the land was free to explore. In the space of 12 months, the United States had expanded by a staggering 140 per cent. And just like that, the American Frontier was born.



The easternmost point of the railroad was in Omaha, Nebraska. It was from this point that the Union Pacific Railroad Company began its work on the new railroad

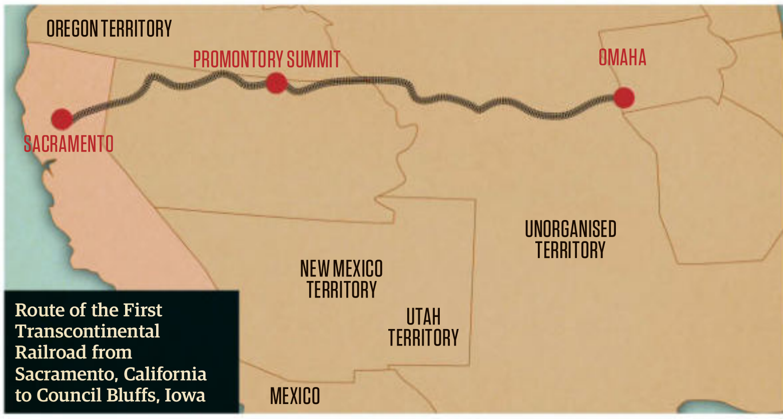
THE RAILROAD

The tide of industry rode the First Transcontinental Railroad that finally tamed the wilderness

The Pacific Railroad began as nothing more than an idea in the head of American businessman Dr Hartwell Carver. In 1832, Carver published an article in the *New York Courier And Enquirer* that detailed quite the ambitious plan. He believed it was time for the east and west coasts of the United States to finally be linked together by a series of interconnected railroads. The sheer cost of the plan was so high that most investors balked at the idea, but Carver was undeterred. By 1847 he had presented his plans in a document entitled a 'Proposal For A Charter To Build A Railroad From Lake Michigan To The Pacific Ocean' to Congress in the hope of swaying governmental funding. By working with enthusiastic civil engineer Theodore Judah, the design for the United States' first transcontinental railroad was fast becoming a reality.

It would take another six years for the wheels to finally start turning, but the House of Representatives would eventually request the Pacific Railroad Surveys (a three-year-long program that focused on determining the best route for a new railroad to follow). The surveys took a while to conduct for a reason – more than 1 million square kilometres (400,000 square miles) of American wilderness were to be charted.

Congress passed the Pacific Railroad Acts of 1862 and 1864. These acts were vital to the railroad's future – they guaranteed the railroad companies were issued government bonds and grants of land so the railroad could progress at an efficient pace through the Frontier. However, money and land weren't enough to build an almost 3,200-kilometre (2,000-mile)-long railway – the railroad companies needed bodies on the ground. Apart from American workers, all of the organisations involved relied heavily on immigrant labour. These included a contingent of workers from China and Irish workers seeking a new life on the Frontier.



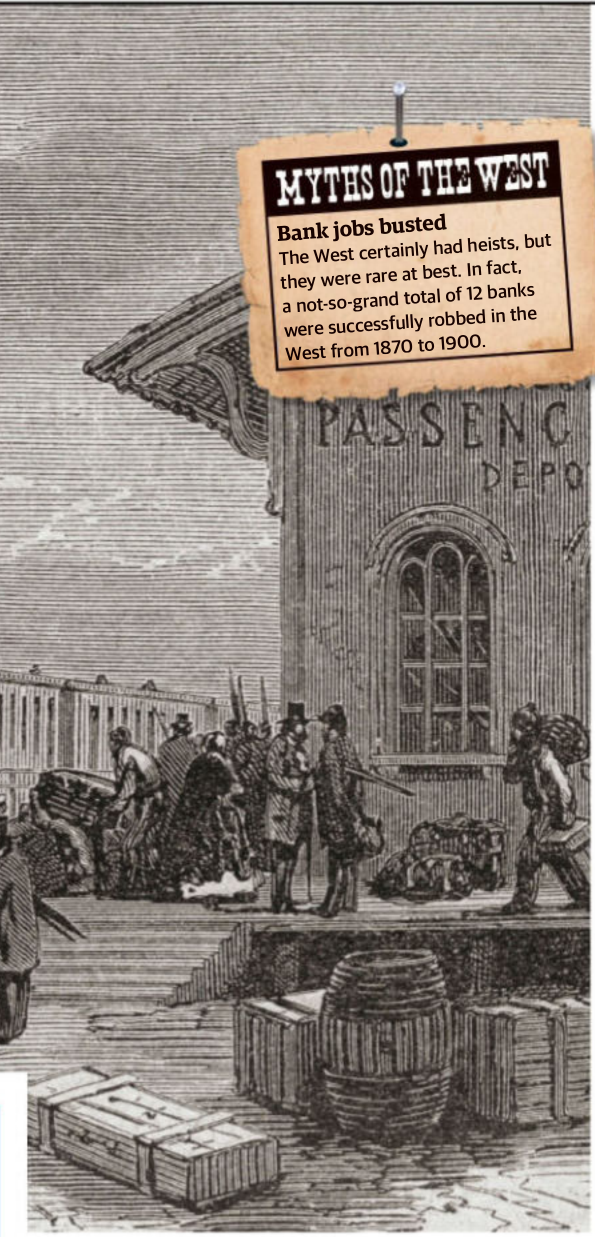
Route of the First Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento, California to Council Bluffs, Iowa

But how did the Native American nations react to this spine of industrial development as it was carved through their lands? One tribe, the Pawnees, actually welcomed the railroad on their land, but others reacted far more defensively. The Sioux tribe would conduct raiding parties on the moving 'Hell on Wheels' settlements that moved with the railroad as it was constructed. By the time it was finished, with the 'last spike' driven into the tracks in Utah on 10 May 1869, the First Transcontinental Railroad was a staggering 3,069 kilometres (1,907 miles) long.

MYTHS OF THE WEST

The American cowboy

Think cowboys are an American invention? Think again. The precursor to the cattlemen were the Mexican 'vaqueros', and it was these pioneers who taught their American counterparts everything they knew.



MYTHS OF THE WEST

Bank jobs busted

The West certainly had heists, but they were rare at best. In fact, a not-so-grand total of 12 banks were successfully robbed in the West from 1870 to 1900.

HELL ON WHEELS

In 1862, the original Pacific Railroad Act chartered two companies – the Union Pacific Railroad and Central Pacific companies – with the task of building the line as soon as possible. The companies would start almost 3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles) apart and race one another across the country until they met somewhere in the middle. It would become an intense seven-year race for two important reasons: First, there was no defined meeting point, and second, Congress would grant 6,400 acres (2,590 hectares) of land (later doubled by the amended act of 1864) and $48,000 for every 1.6 kilometres (one mile) of track built. While the Central Pacific struggled eastward in the mountains of Sierra Nevada, the Union Pacific laid track at a far more rapid pace westward from the Missouri River. However, it would take until 1865 and the end of Civil War for both companies to start laying track with vigour. By the time the two railroads met at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869, the Union Pacific had covered almost twice as much distance as its rival.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

Chairman
Dr Thomas Clark Durant

Their plan
To lay a railroad track from the eastern terminus on the Eastern shore of the Missouri River all the way to the Promontory Summit in Utah Territory.

Were they successful?
Yes, the Union Pacific successfully built 1,746km (1,085mi) of tracks over almost three years, laying more than the two other companies combined.

Central Pacific Railroad Company

Chairman
Leland Stanford

Their plan
To lay track east from Sacramento to Promontory Summit, Utah.

Were they successful?
Yes, the Central Pacific successfully built 1,110km (690mi) of track before linking up to the Union Pacific portion of the railroad.

Western Pacific Railroad Company

Chairman
Timothy Dame

Their plan
To lay track between Oakland and Sacramento, completing the railroad by linking it to the West Coast.

Were they successful?
Yes, the Western Pacific successfully built 212km (132mi) of track that extended the Central Pacific Railroad.

COMMON JOBS IN THE WEST

As settlers attempted to tame the wild American Frontier, burgeoning industries sprung up across the nation. Here are a few of the vocations that followed them…

FUR TRADER

Skills needed
A strong sense of navigation; experience with cartography; knife skills for skinning.

Main difficulties
Had to deal with treacherous conditions, animal attacks and hostile Indians.

Did you know?
They would catch and skin everything from wolves to beavers to meet the booming fur demand.

BARKEEPER

Skills needed
Good people skills; experience with pouring drinks; a grasp of how to fire a rifle.

Main difficulties
Drunken fights between patrons. When used, guns were wildly inaccurate.

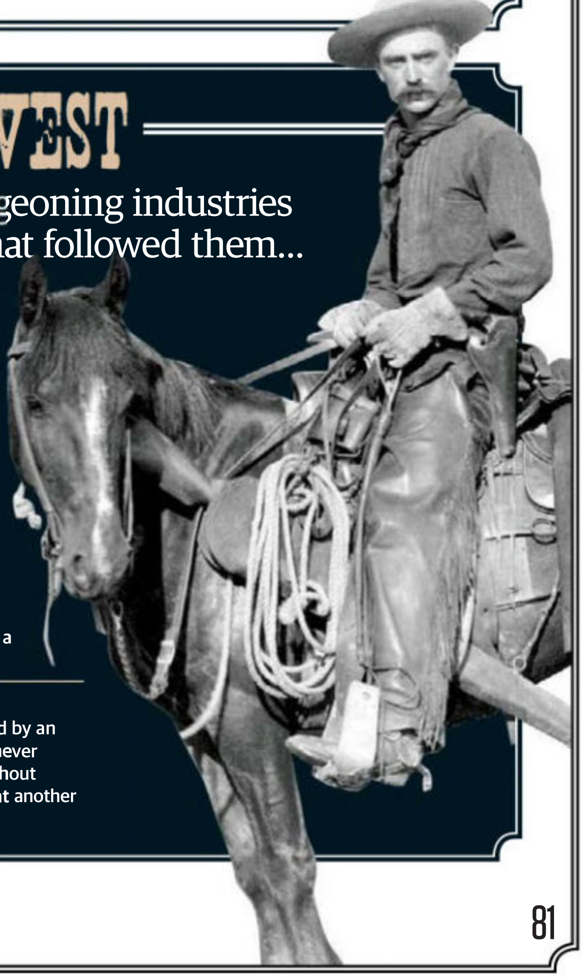
Did you know?
The 'batwing' doors aren't a fictitious element added by Hollywood. A great number of saloons had this iconic feature.

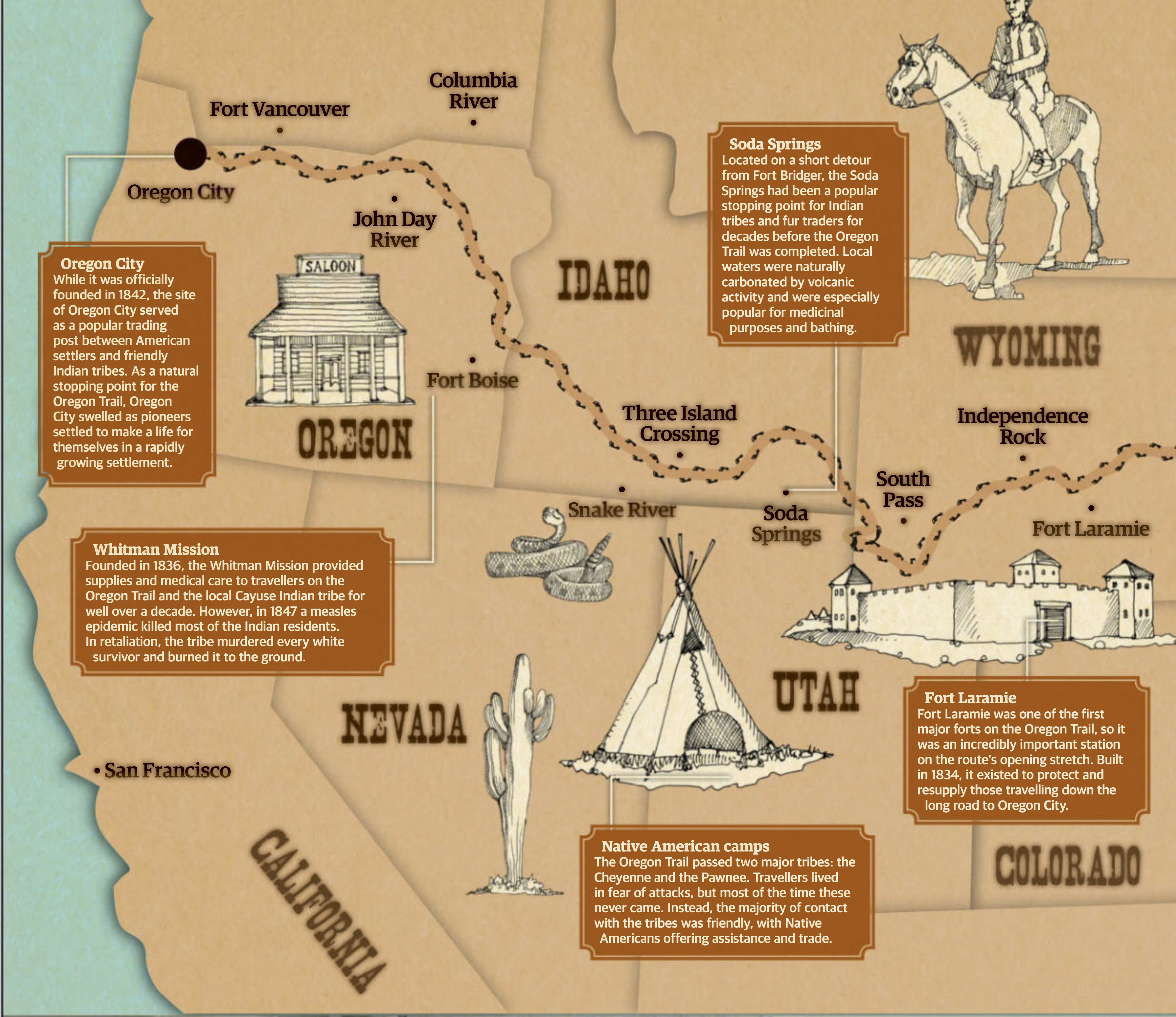
COWBOY

Skills needed
A classic cowboy would need strong experience with horseriding, a sense of navigation, the skill of branding and the ability to rope cattle on the move.

Main difficulties
A small group of cowboys (usually 12 or so) could be looking after anything up 3,000 cattle in a single cattle drive. Cattle rustlers were also a common problem for herders.

Did you know?
Cowboys in the Wild West lived by an unwritten code that included never riding another man's horse without permission and never waving at another man or woman on a horse.





Oregon City
While it was officially founded in 1842, the site of Oregon City served as a popular trading post between American settlers and friendly Indian tribes. As a natural stopping point for the Oregon Trail, Oregon City swelled as pioneers settled to make a life for themselves in a rapidly growing settlement.

Whitman Mission
Founded in 1836, the Whitman Mission provided supplies and medical care to travellers on the Oregon Trail and the local Cayuse Indian tribe for well over a decade. However, in 1847 a measles epidemic killed most of the Indian residents. In retaliation, the tribe murdered every white survivor and burned it to the ground.

Soda Springs
Located on a short detour from Fort Bridger, the Soda Springs had been a popular stopping point for Indian tribes and fur traders for decades before the Oregon Trail was completed. Local waters were naturally carbonated by volcanic activity and were especially popular for medicinal purposes and bathing.

Native American camps
The Oregon Trail passed two major tribes: the Cheyenne and the Pawnee. Travellers lived in fear of attacks, but most of the time these never came. Instead, the majority of contact with the tribes was friendly, with Native Americans offering assistance and trade.

Fort Laramie
Fort Laramie was one of the first major forts on the Oregon Trail, so it was an incredibly important station on the route's opening stretch. Built in 1834, it existed to protect and resupply those travelling down the long road to Oregon City.

The Oregon Trail wasn't one, long uninhabited road – the route had tens of forts and stations placed along it so travellers could trade for new materials and food

Originally laid down by fur traders at the beginning of the 19th century, the Oregon Trail has become an iconic chapter in American history

Before the First Transcontinental Railroad made traversing the West an easier – and less dangerous – venture, the Oregon Trail remained the most direct route from Missouri on the edge of the Frontier to Oregon on the west coast of North America. This 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile)-long route passed six different states and took 30 years to map.

For years it was only accessible on foot or horseback, but by 1836 it was suitable for wide-

THE OREGON TRAIL

NEBRASKA
Fort Kearny
KANSAS
Fort Leavenworth

The Trail begins
The Oregon Trail took three decades to complete and was essentially lots of small trails mapped and discovered by different trappers, which were then linked up to create a route through much of the Frontier. Independence, Missouri became a 'jumping-on' point for the Trail due to high influx of Mormons that used it.

The Rocks
Courthouse Rock and Jailhouse Rock were some of the first major landmarks travellers on the Oregon Trail would see as they journeyed across the West. The two large rock formations are found near the Platte River, but both have eroded heavily since the days of the Old West.

wheeled wagons to traverse, which had a big impact on the settlement of families, ranchers, farmers and businessmen. The Great Migration of 1843 saw over 1,000 missionaries making their way through the trail. Close to 60,000 Mormons also followed the trail west from Missouri to Utah in an exodus that saw the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints establish a firm grip on the Frontier that would last out the century. In January 1848, the Gold Rush hit the country like wildfire and Oregon Trail became a highway for citizens from the east coast making their way toward the goldfields.

Wagons were known to travel alone, but most formed 'wagon trains' in order to find safety in numbers. Indian attacks, contrary to popular fiction, were rare at best. Native Americans often came into contact with travellers on the trail but most of them provided advice or traded goods. Attacks usually fell on solitary wagons if they happened to stray into the path of a roving raiding party. It's estimated that around 20,000 people died on the Oregon Trail, but the vast majority of those came from illness, not violence. The first major outbreak of cholera in 1849 killed thousands of travellers, as did a number of typhoid pandemics – even something as treatable as dysentery was enough to kill someone out in the wilderness of a developing country.

MYTHS OF THE WEST

Violence was king
Deaths from duels and disputes certainly happened, but people in the West were more likely to have perished from the wilderness than the business end of a rifle.

THE FACTS

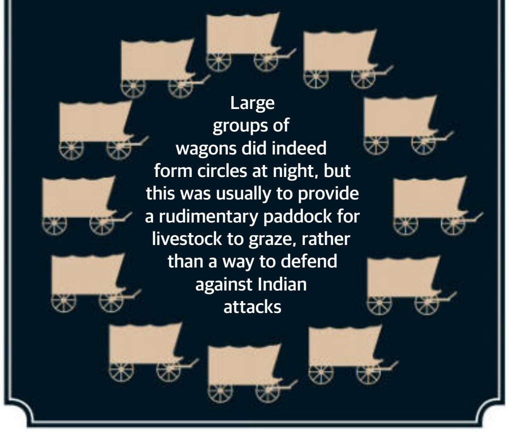
1ST
Founders of the ill-fated Whitman Mission, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman were some of the first people to use the Trail in 1836

1,000
The number of people that took to the Oregon Trail en masse in 1847, the first large group to travel the route

15 MILES
In order to travel the Oregon Trail in the average time of four to six months, this was the amount of distance a wagon would need to cover per day

It would take one year to travel to Oregon by sea around the West Coast – this is why the Oregon Trail was so popular among travellers

Despite its popularity, the Oregon Trail was not a smooth route and most covered wagons used slower and hardier animals such as oxen instead of horses


Large groups of wagons did indeed form circles at night, but this was usually to provide a rudimentary paddock for livestock to graze, rather than a way to defend against Indian attacks

TRIBES

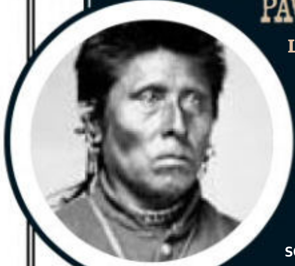
What were the major Native American tribes of the Frontier?

APACHE

Location: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma
Biggest rivals: Mexican settlers, American settlers and the Comanche

Perhaps one of the most misrepresented tribes in the history of the American Frontier, the Apache people remain an incredibly fascinating culture. Painted as bloodthirsty savages by popular fiction, the Apaches were simply a tribe that employed their own unique take on warfare. Apache raiding parties weren't rogue parties who attacked settlers for sport – Apache warriors believed that open warfare was dishonourable as it involved endangering innocent lives. Apache society wasn't based around the skills of farming like their neighbours, the Navajo. Instead, Apache placed a central focus on the ability to hunt and kill effectively.

PAWNEE



Location: Oklahoma
Biggest rivals: Osage, Sioux

Originally one of the largest and most prolific Indian tribes, the Pawnee spent the latter part of the 18th century in a peaceful coexistence with French settlers. France's take on the New World was far more pragmatic than their American counterparts, using their relationship with the Indian tribes to build a peaceful fur-trade business. Once the French withdrew following the Louisiana Purchase, the Pawnee had little contact with the encroaching American settlers. This isolation kept the Pawnees away from the infectious diseases that ravaged their fellow nations, but by 1859, increased contact had eventually reduced its population from around 12,000 to as little as 3,000.

SIOUX

Location: Northern USA and southernmost Canadian regions
Biggest Rivals: Pawnee, Cheyenne

The Sioux people (meaning 'little snakes') were one of the most powerful tribes on the Great Plains, with a total of seven individual sub-tribes within their nation (the Mdewakanton, the Sisseton, the Teton, the Wahpekute, the Wahpeton, the Yankton and the Yanktonai) but they were generally known by two separate names – the Lakota and the Dakota. The Sioux were both farmers and hunters, but they relied heavily on the buffalo herds that roamed the Great Plains. As American settlers hunted them into extinction, the Sioux were soon driven into reservations that drastically changed their way of life.

COWBOYS & INDIANS

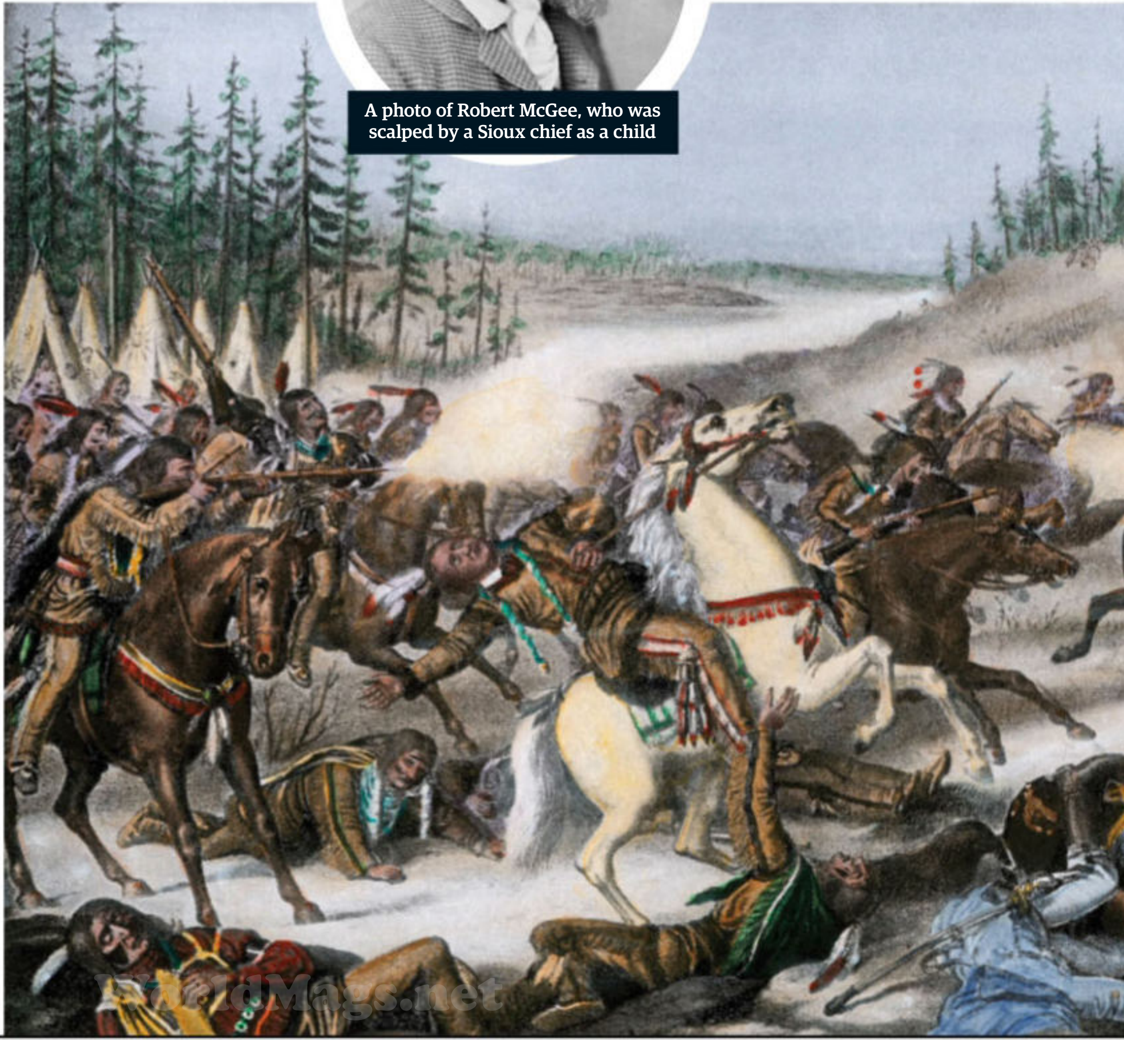
What were the Native Americans really like? And did they come into contact with cowboys as much as we think?

Unsurprisingly, many of the Indian tribes that populated the wilds of the Frontier were not best pleased with the incursions white settlers were making on their reservations. Their collective animosity wasn't without reason – the arrival of Christopher Columbus and other European explorers was disastrous for the Indian nations, with hundreds of thousands dying from Columbus' near-genocide alone.

During the 19th century, the relationship between the Indian nations and the rapidly expanding American settlers deteriorated further with every passing decade. The building of the First Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s served as one of the fiercest catalysts as thousands of settlers from England, Ireland and beyond travelled to carve out a new life on the plains of the New World. Violent clashes occurred with more aggressive tribes, and when they did they were often bloody affairs. These conflicts raged from the very beginning of American settlement to the latter part of the 19th century, collectively known as the Indian Wars.

In truth, most of the major conflicts between the more aggressive tribes such as the Sioux were fought with the Union Army rather than cowboys, which aimed to stamp out the raids that formed an integral part of many Indian cultures. Cowboys, the cattlemen and women who drove large herds from ranchers to cowtowns such as Dodge City, did come into contact with Indian tribes, but usually only ever during large cattle drives. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 had forced the Indian nations into designated reservations to meet the ever-increasing need for new land developments, so thousands of longhorns moving across the plains became too enticing a target for many of the struggling tribes to resist.

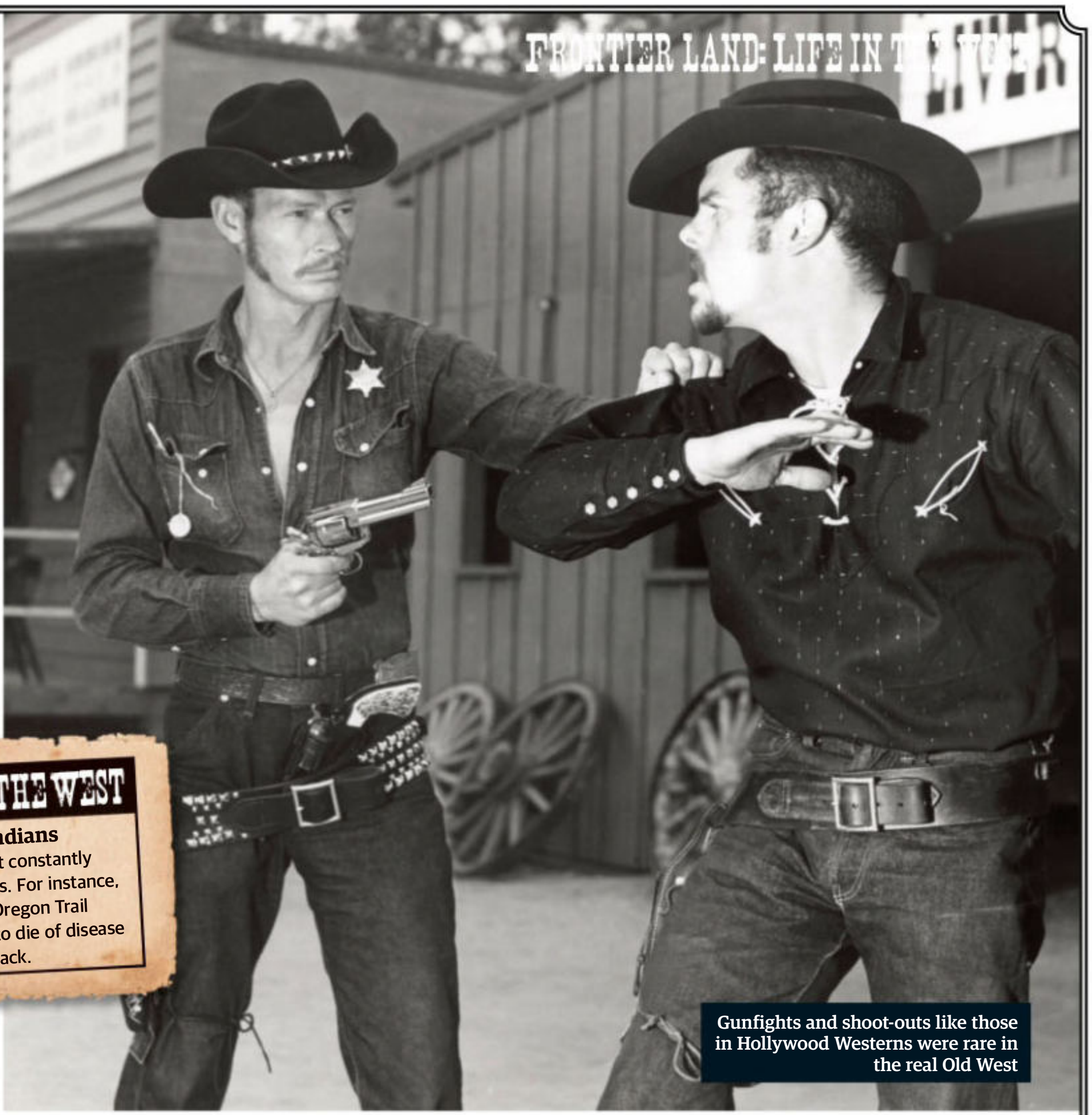
A photo of Robert McGee, who was scalped by a Sioux chief as a child



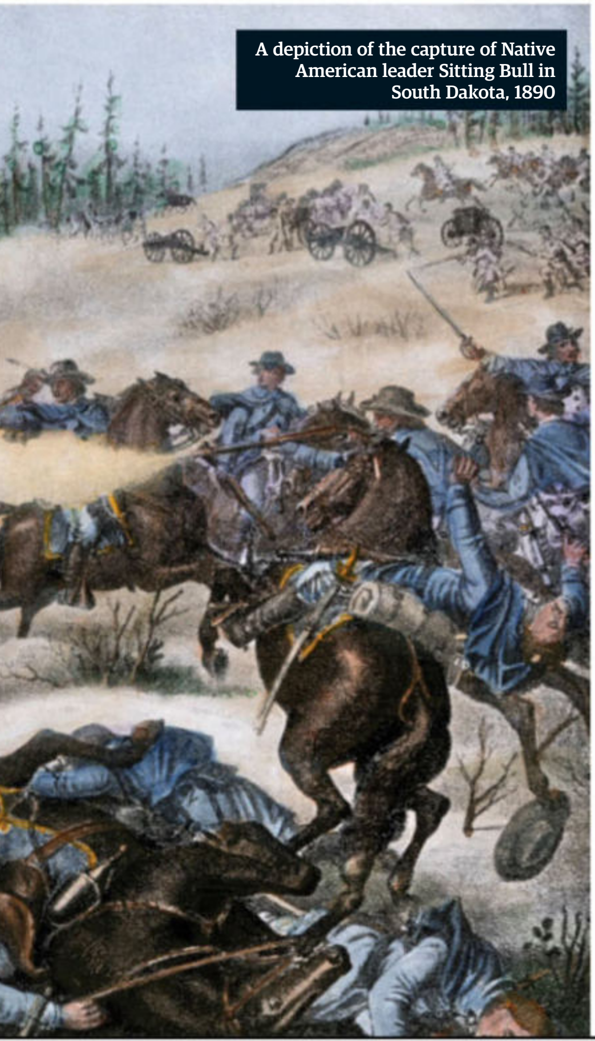
An Apache fiddler – the Apache were not as brutal as popular fiction depicts them

MYTHS OF THE WEST

Clashes with Indians
Indian tribes didn't constantly attack new settlers. For instance, travellers on the Oregon Trail were more likely to die of disease than an Indian attack.



Gunfights and shoot-outs like those in Hollywood Westerns were rare in the real Old West



A depiction of the capture of Native American leader Sitting Bull in South Dakota, 1890

SHERIFFS & OUTLAWS

Myth sees the Wild West as a lawless place paved with the bodies of gunslingers, but the reality was far more civilised

Hollywood, with all its choreographed gunfights and blood-soaked ambushes, would have you believe the Frontier was a hellish killing field. The reality couldn't have been more different. Guns were a necessity out in the wild; people had the right to defend their lives and possessions from bandits, hostile Indians and local wildlife, but in the cowtowns and other urban settings gun laws were stricter in the 19th century than they are in the modern-day United States.

Most towns strictly prohibited the carrying of firearms within city limits. It was a common sight to see a sign outside a city or town that read 'Leave Your Revolvers At Police Headquarters And Get A Check.' Only lawmen – be they city sheriffs or US marshals – were legally allowed to carry heat on the streets and most weren't averse to convincing you of their authority from the business end of rifle. Of course, such order could only survive as long as someone was willing to enforce it.

Some towns, such as Dodge City, had two very different districts. One side had its own lawmen that kept the peace; here, saloons and cat houses didn't tolerate civil unrest. But on the 'wrong side of the tracks', things were much rowdier. This part of town played home to The Red Light House, a brothel so rough even the girls were armed.

Maintaining law on the Frontier was not an easy task, but it was taken very seriously by those with something to lose. In the settlements and cities that rose from the dust, the safety of its citizens was upheld either by sheriffs appointed by the government or by privately funded 'lawbringers.' These men were essentially mercenaries, hired for their proficiency with taking a life rather than their desire to preserve the common good. As the more isolated towns were linked by the expanding railway in the 1870s onward, these private killers were soon replaced by official sheriffs.

However, the use of private lawbringers found a more fortuitous home in other areas of the West. Wagon trains employed them to ensure infighting and violence was kept to a minimum, as did mining communities across the Frontier. In fact, major cases of violence were mostly from clashes between hostile Indian tribes and the military.

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BOOK REVIEWS

All About History's pick of the newest and most interesting history books

EMPIRE OF SIN

A riveting account of the unruly jazz age

Author Gary Krist **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £20 **Released** November 2014

This gripping account of turn-of-the-century New Orleans narrates exactly what it says on its evocative tin: the city's booming sex industry, the birth of jazz, and an abundance of grisly murders. *Empire Of Sin* depicts the colourful, captivating and often heart-breaking history of this cultural melting pot, and explains how it overcame the obstacles of segregation, prohibition and war.

Divided into four parts covering time periods between 1890 and 1920, its short chapters make the book read like a collection of short stories, giving the narrative a pace so many history books lack. It emulates a crime thriller, weaving the personal tales of several of the city's degenerates within the wider history of the city of vice. Despite being entirely non-fictional, Krist succeeds in providing ample dialogue, with everything between quotation marks being either reported by witnesses or newspapers, or cited from a memoir, letter, or other primary source. Every piece of dialogue is cited in an extensive notes section at the back of the book, and an equally extensive bibliography showcases a level of research that is truly admirable.

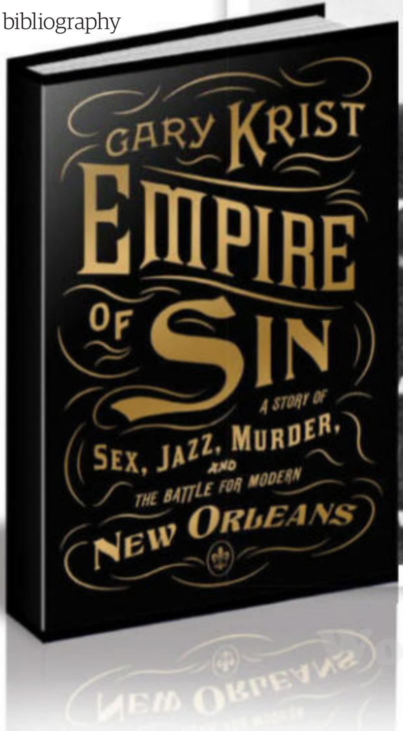
Krist paints the morally ambiguous denizens of 'Storyville' - the city's red-light district - with all the colours of a Mardi Gras festival. From a corrupt police chief who becomes the victim of a Mafia assassination, to a racially oppressed vagrant who goes on a shooting rampage, *Empire Of Sin* constantly urges you to question your notions of right and wrong. Krist picks out individual crimes and details them with the precision of a detective, using police reports and court transcripts to provide a balanced and accurate account of the grim affair, and then leaving it to the reader to decide who the guilty party really is.

Though much of the book centres on the bloody crimes and social atrocities that plagued New Orleans in the early-20th century, the story of jazz provides a foundation upon which the rest of the narrative is built. Once considered an "affront to decency" by the elite classes for its association with sex, alcohol, drugs and inter-racial mixing, the tale of how jazz embedded itself as a symbol of black empowerment in the United States is a fascinating one. And though his endeavours to recount its history risk alienating readers of a non-musical background, Krist succeeds in evoking the music of the age in a way that is accessible to all readers. His inclusion of the memoirs of such jazz 'kings' as Buddy Bolden and Louis Armstrong give a face to the genre, as well as providing engaging mini-bios of these legendary characters.

Recent stories of corruption and racism within the US police force appear as gloomy shadows of the tragedies that occurred over a century ago, and make Krist's book all the more relevant to today's readers. *Empire Of Sin* is a triumph, proving that history books can be as riveting as the events they describe, and setting the standard for nonfiction books to come.

Alicea Francis

Jazz music is inextricably linked to the history of New Orleans


GARY KRIST
EMPIRE OF SIN
A STORY OF SEX, JAZZ, MURDER, AND THE BATTLE FOR MODERN NEW ORLEANS

IN 1876: BANANAS & CUSTER

The definitive guide to a year in history

Author Robert Cormican **Publisher** Miles from the Madding Crowd **Price** £6.99
Released 19 April 2014

In 1876: Bananas & Custer is a detailed and innovative record of the events occurring over one year in history, and yes, both General Custer and bananas feature here.

True to the title, the book features a mixture of earth-shattering events alongside curious and bizarre goings-on, which all took place during 1876. Diaries of years or even centuries in history have been published before, but what is unique about this offering is the form it takes. Published exclusively for the iPad, this entire interactive book has been created with the medium firmly in mind. You are perfectly free to read it as you would an ordinary book, but that would deprive you of some of the most innovative and engaging aspects of the publication. You can choose whether you'd like to explore the year in order from the first day to the last, jump to the date of your choice or even choose to navigate by a varied and entertaining selection of themes, ranging from 'Animal Kingdom' to 'Predictions' to 'Spot the Difference.'

Among the informative and often amusing retelling of the days' events there are little goodies littered about, such as the occasional pop quiz, maps, images and even handy links to other related articles in the book, so you can easily follow one single story through the year. Almost every entry is backed up with extracts from newspapers and books from the period, adding a factual basis to the entertaining prose.

Because of the staggering size and depth of this book, it's unlikely to be something you read from metaphorical cover to back in one sitting, but what it does provide is an engaging way to fully immerse yourself in the events that defined 1876. The best thing about this book is that there is no 'proper' way to read it; instead it puts the knowledge and the information in the hands of the reader to do with as we see fit.

Frances White

MAPPING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

A new point of view of WWII

Author Michael Swift & Michael Sharpe **Publisher** Conway **Price** £20
Released 9 October 2014

There is a staggering amount of overview literature on the Second World War, about 70 years' worth of it, in fact. Therefore it has become something of a rarity to see a book that covers this world-defining conflict from a new point of view.

However, *Mapping The Second World War: The Key Battles Of The European Theatre From Above* does literally that, by collating maps of all the most important battles, reconnaissance missions, assaults (including some feigned ones) and even a prisoner-drawn sketch of the Gestapo's Paris headquarters. All of them have extensive captions that provide further insight into each map, explaining the event behind it and the most important details contained in the map. With over 100 maps, only from the European and North African theatre of war, there is surprisingly little repetition, as the maps are composed in varying style and detail. And with each entry, the reader gets a deeper understanding of not only the Second World War, but also the staggering importance of the cartography side of warfare in a time long before the advent of satellite navigation and Google Maps. Here, a single wrong detail in a U-boat recon map or an overview of German night air defences could spell doom for hundreds or thousands of soldiers.

Another fascinating element is the inclusion of 'fake maps' for feigned manoeuvres or assaults. One of those is the plan of the feigned assault at El Alamein, which is interestingly clearer and more detailed than many of the real mission maps, as if its suspiciously straight lines and 'random' place details were designed to continue fooling the enemy should they get their hands on the map itself.

Mapping The Second World War is a great read for anyone interested in 20th-century history, best enjoyed by opening up on a random page each time for a fascinating top-down glimpse into the world's biggest conflict in history.

Erlingur Einarsson

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS…

Hitler's First Victims

Author: Timothy W Ryback
Price: £12.99
Publisher: The Bodley Head

There has long been a debate about whether the Nazi Holocaust was pre-planned or whether their international network of death camps and murder squads evolved over time as an inevitable consequence of policy. It's one of history's darkest subjects, and in *Hitler's First Victims* Timothy W Ryback explores it with a compelling tale of a quiet hero who stood up to the might of the Third Reich at the precise moment the killing began.

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MAGNA CARTA

A great tale for the anniversary of England's Great Charter

Author Dan Jones **Publisher** Head of Zeus **Price £14.99 Released** 11 December

Summer 2015 sees the 'Great Charter' reach its ninth century, and so telling its story is a fitting way to celebrate. That's a tougher job than its sounds, though; the history of this seminal piece of English legislation is convoluted and archaic, weaving around Medieval law and an ancient system of government in a way that could easily leave the reader cold.

However, Dan Jones charts the making of the *Magna Carta* through to its legacy, leaving no stone unturned in his telling, painting lurid pictures of an unscrupulous Medieval king and greedy barons, their wicked machinations and the jaw-dropping lengths they went to achieve their goals. He asks how England's subjects were able to bind the unbending plantagenate monarch, King John, to a legal document in 1215, and then goes on to answer this question in one of the most thorough and entertaining historical tales we've read in a long time. His account is relatively short but vividly detailed, punctuated with full-colour illustrations and appended with the Medieval English translation of the *Magna Carta*, as well as the original Latin version; the latter of which was pretty much lost on us, but by that point we'd learned more of 13th-century English history in a few hours' reading than at a whole year of school.

"Vividly detailed, punctuated with full-colour illustrations"

As a historian, journalist and television presenter for both the BBC and Channel 5, Jones's pedigree is clear. But it's his passion for this era of history and the telling of this story that makes *Magna Carta* for anyone - not just for the history buffs.

Ben Biggs

DAN JONES
MAGNA CARTA
THE MAKING AND LEGACY OF THE GREAT CHARTER

OMNIBUS: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE LONDON BUS

110 years of the wheels going 'round and 'round

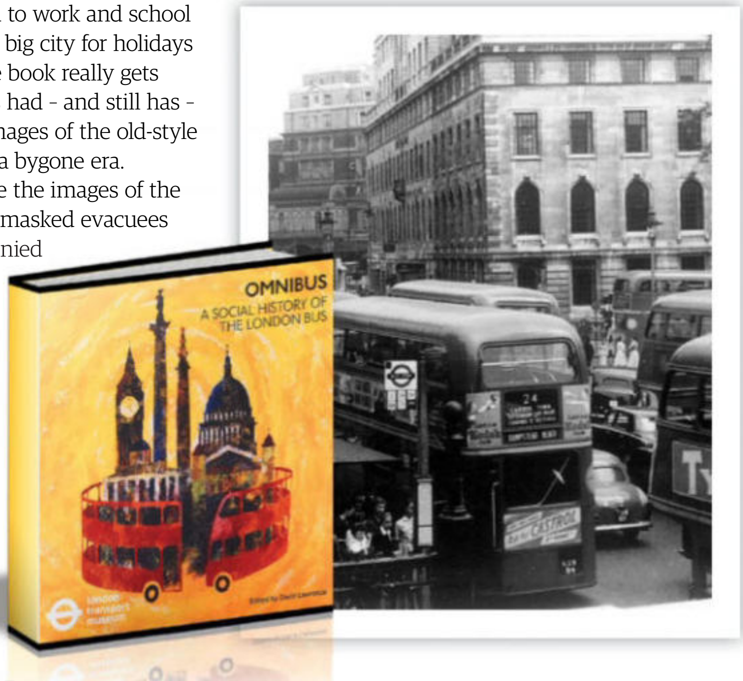
Author Various **Publisher** London Transport Museum **Price** £25.00 **Released** 13 November 2014

From horse-drawn boxes to hydrogen-cell engines, buses have been an iconic part of any visit to London down the years. Written as part of 2014's Year of the Bus celebrations, *Omnibus: A Social History Of The London Bus* has been compiled to celebrate 110 years of the London General Omnibus Company. Across its 292 pages, the book focuses on various topics; from the interwar 'pirate' buses to the new fleet of this millennium. Containing a real passion for all things London, it is both light-hearted and immaculately detailed. There are 449 fantastic illustrations on offer with the most notable being Simon Murphy's culture section, which is infused with colour as it showcases the portrayal of the bus in popular culture. A highlight is the 1970s children's show *Here Come The Double Deckers* which features the niche subject of seven children's adventures on an old bus.

An institution older than the London Underground, there is a surprising amount on show in *Omnibus*. Before the family car became affordable, the bus carried you to work and school and was your ticket out of the big city for holidays and summer breaks. What the book really gets across is the huge role the bus had - and still has - to play in society. The vivid images of the old-style buses are a joy and showcase a bygone era.

Perhaps most impressive are the images of the Blitz that show a group of gas-masked evacuees waiting at a bus stop accompanied by their tickets, which remind the civilians to "not leave your gas mask on the bus!" A release that could have so easily become a dull textbook, *Omnibus: A Social History Of The London Bus* is far from that and is a suitable celebration for what has become a true British icon.

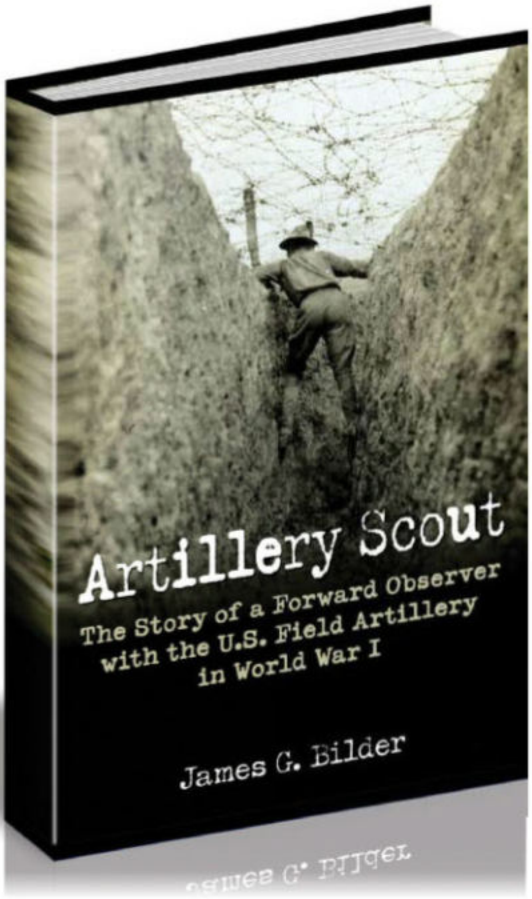
Jack Griffiths



ARTILLERY SCOUT

A personal account from the trenches of WWI

Author James G Bilder **Publisher** Casemate **Price** £19.99
Released 19 November 2014


Artillery Scout
The Story of a Forward Observer with the U.S. Field Artillery in World War I
James G. Bilder

When writing about a subject that affected the lives of millions of people around the Earth, it can be easy to get lost in the sheer scale of the event. This is why James G Bilder based this World-War-I book around just one person – his grandfather Len.

By building a narrative around this one man, Bilder hopes to humanise the conflict and draw the reader into a personal story of love, tragedy and sacrifice. He paints an engaging picture of his grandfather and grandmother in the early days of their relationship in the United States, forged amid rising tensions in Europe. We then follow Len on a journey to France to take part in a war he didn't believe the US should even be involved in.

The majority of this book is a lively account of the 58th Field Artillery Brigade's role in World War I. Len was an artillery scout, whose principle job was to look for enemy guns and provide intelligence so the American gunners could aim their artilleries accurately. This role is often overlooked in war literature, so Bilder has found a new element to an incredibly crowded market.

While there was plenty of historical information presented in a light, easy-to-read fashion, the way Bilder occasionally pushes Len back into the story is done a little clumsily. The passages in which Len is actively involved read very well and as the book and story progress it becomes easy to empathise with Len.

Overall this is a fresh, well-researched perspective on an heavily covered subject. There is plenty to interest the military enthusiast, while the emotional angle of Bilder's grandfather acting as the narrative's central character works very well, even though he sometimes feels just a little bit shoehorned in.

Jamie Frier

> "As the story progresses it becomes easy to empathise with Len"

CHAPTER 11
CHAPTER 218
CHAPTER 9
Alice in Wonderland all grown up
Tchaikovsky finishes "Swan Lake"
366 Days (yes it was a leap year) 472 paintings & photos 15 quick quizzes 52 maps (some of which move)
756 stories 548 newspaper illustrations 36 film reviews and 43 graphs (some of those move too)

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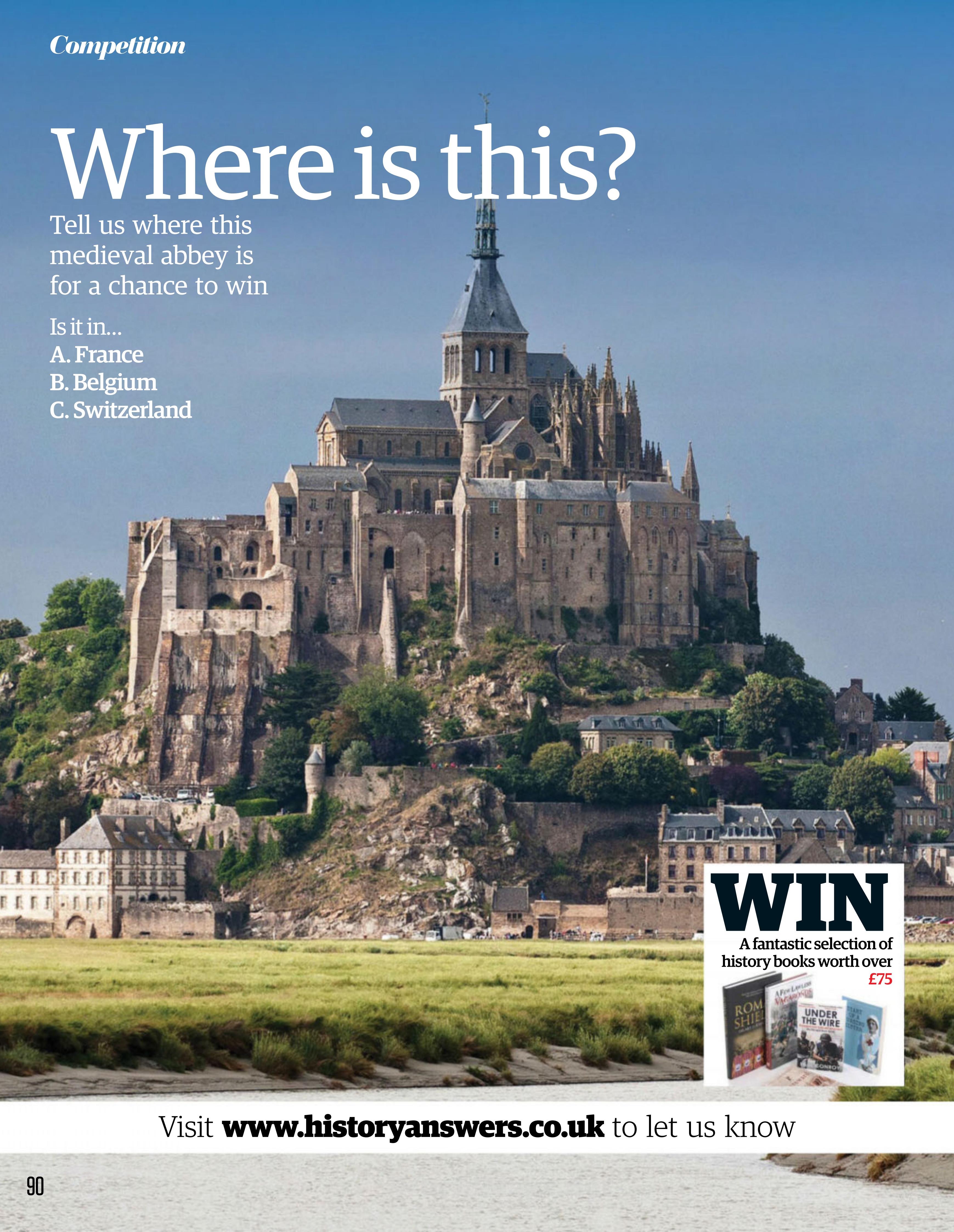

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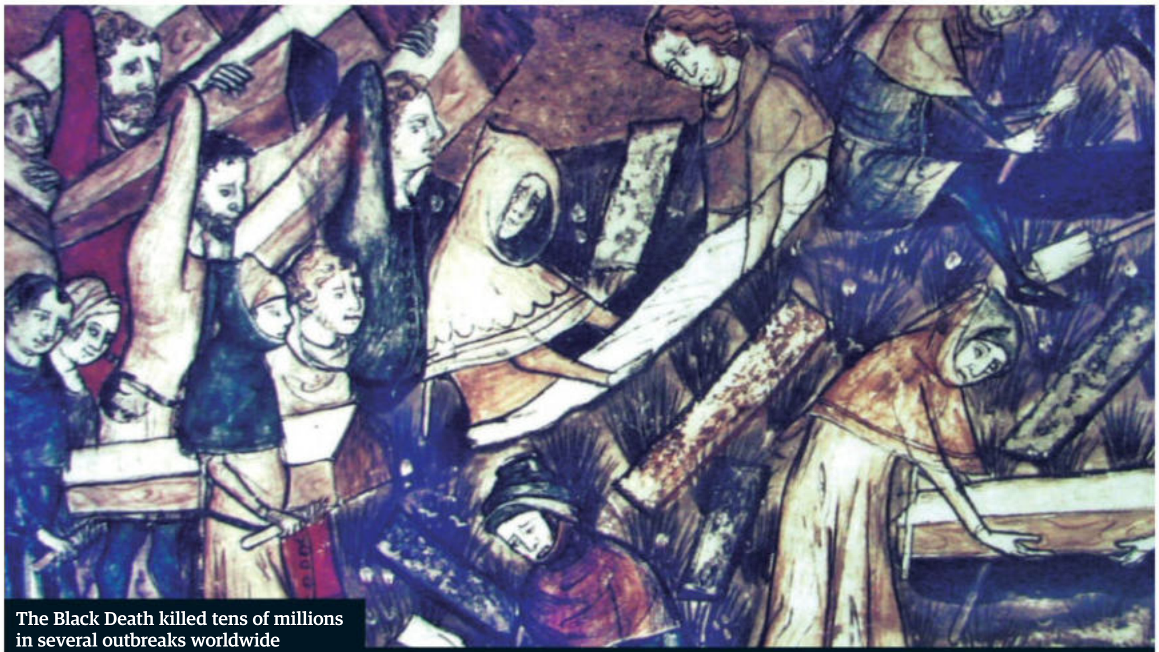


The Black Death killed tens of millions in several outbreaks worldwide

What is the closest humanity has ever come to being wiped out?

Rebecca Bullen, Cheltenham

Epidemics such as the Plague of Justinian (541 to 543) and the Black Death (1346 to 1353) killed off tens of millions, but did not extend to all continents. The superpowers risked a nuclear holocaust during the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis but pulled back in the end. However, some 70,000 years ago, the global human population dropped down to the 10,000-mark. When Lake Toba erupted, a 100 x 30-kilometre (62 x 19-mile) crater was blasted out of the Indonesian island of Sumatra by a volcanic explosion, making it the most devastating eruption on Earth in 2 million years. Everything within an 800-kilometre (500-mile) radius was completely destroyed and volcanic ash spread two-thirds of the way across the Indian Ocean. The Toba eruption lasted a week, during which it discharged an estimated 28,000 cubic kilometres (6,717.6 cubic miles) of magma into the atmosphere.

It has been noted there is little genetic diversity in humans compared with our nearest animal relative, the chimpanzee. In 2003, a study by Stanford University and the Russian Academy of Science showed that a 'bottleneck' event occurred around 70,000 years ago. Humanity, then confined to Africa, was decimated by the Toba eruption, which sparked a six-year volcanic winter and a 1,000-year ice age. We are all the descendents of the very few who survived.

Is it true that Papa Doc used voodoo during his rule in Haiti?

Gloria Smith, Corby

The island of Haiti endured tyranny and ruin under the rule of Francois Duvalier (1907 to 1971), also known as Papa Doc. Elected on a nationalist and populist platform in 1957, he traded on anti-communism in the wake of the nearby Cuban Revolution, extracting as much US aid as he could, almost all of which was expropriated. But when the Kennedy administration cut off aid in mid 1962, an enraged Duvalier put an 'ouanga' (curse) on the president, more than a year before his assassination. The cross-breeding of Christian and African folk beliefs, known as voodoo, formed part of Duvalier's dreadful personality cult. He recruited a rural militia of thugs known as the Tonton Macoute, the name being derived from 'Uncle Knapsack,' a Creole bogeyman who kidnaps children. He even composed his own 'revolutionary' catechism, where the Lord's Prayer began: "Our Doc, who art in the National Palace for life, hallowed be thy name by present and future generations. Thy will be done in the capital Port Au Prince and in the provinces..."

Jean Francois 'Papa Doc' Duvalier used Voodoo as part of his cult of personality between 1957 and 1971

This day in history 8 January

1642

Death of Galileo Galilei

The Italian astronomer who used the first modern telescope to map the phases of Venus and the moons of Jupiter dies. His contention that the Earth was not at the centre of the universe earned him charges of heresy by the Catholic Church.

1745

The 2nd Jacobite Uprising

Charles Edward Stuart and his forces attempt to regain the throne from the Hanover dynasty. The uprising culminates in the Battle of Culloden the following year, the last pitched battle fought on British soil.

1790

Washington delivers the first State of the Union address

Born into the landed class, Washington had presided over the drafting of the US Constitution and established a form of government still in use today. He had commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War of 1775-1783.

1877

Crazy Horse and his men fight their last battle

The Oglala Lakota leader had inflicted a stunning defeat upon General George Custer's 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn, Montana in June 1876. He decides to surrender with his men, dying that September at Camp Robinson, Nebraska.

The Taj Mahal at dawn, recognised as one of the ten modern wonders of the world

MUMTAZ MAHAL

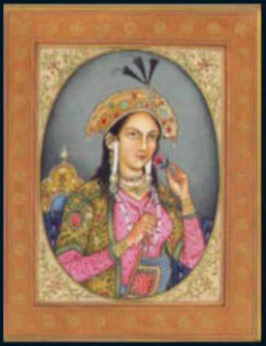
1593-1631, Mughal

Brief Bio

Mumtaz Mahal was born Arjumand Banu Begum in 1593 of Indian and Persian descent. Aged 19, she married Prince Khurram, crowned Shah Jahan in 1628. The emperor was devoted to her and she accompanied the royal entourage. In 1631 she died in Burhanpur giving birth to their 14th child, a girl named Gauhara Begum.

Why was the Taj Mahal built?

Mary Dudley, Southampton



One of the world's most recognisable buildings, the Taj Mahal in Agra, was built between 1632 and 1653 at the behest of Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor. Shah Jahan was a patron of painting and architecture; the Taj Mahal, a mausoleum devoted to his beloved third wife. The Mughal Empire was under siege during his rule. Khandahar, in present-day Afghanistan, was lost to the Persians in 1649 and Shah Jahan faced uprisings in the Deccan Plateau. He was fighting one of the latter campaigns when Mumtaz died in childbirth. The devastated emperor entered seclusion for a year, reportedly re-emerging with white hair and a stoop. It is said that his dying wife requested he never remarry and that she be honoured with a mausoleum.

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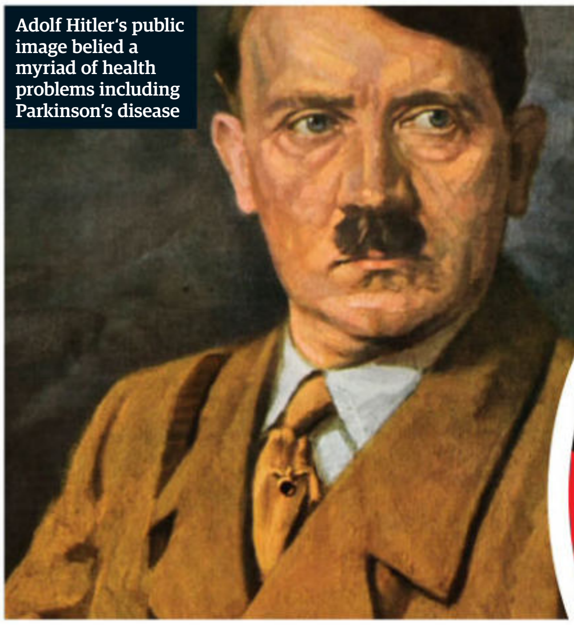
How much longer might Hitler have lived?

Elsie Taupiri, Dudley

Hitler had multiple health issues even before World War II. By the time the 56-year-old Hitler died, he was taking 28 pills per day and was afflicted by skin lesions, irregular heart beat, syphilis, coronary sclerosis and irritable bowel syndrome. The trembling hand characteristic of Parkinson's disease had appeared in the 1930s, around the same time the Führer began popping amphetamines, becoming heavily addicted around 1942.

Hitler's mother died of cancer while still in her forties and neither his father nor his sister lived beyond their mid-sixties. Had he survived beyond 1945, increasingly debilitated by multiple illnesses, perhaps still addicted to drugs, it's difficult to imagine him living to a ripe old age.



Adolf Hitler's public image belied a myriad of health problems including Parkinson's disease

Learn whether Viking funerals were as fiery as you think at... historyanswers.co.uk

1918

Woodrow Wilson announces his '14 Points'
The US president envisions a post-war world based on international co-operation, free trade and democracy. Wilson's speech is the only explicit statement of war aims by a belligerent power.

1935

The king of rock is born
On the same date 19 years later, a former truck driver, Elvis Aaron Presley, pays $4 to a small Memphis studio to record two songs, *Casual Love* and *I'll Never Stand In Your Way.*

1940

Britain introduces rationing
Initially rationing applies to bacon, butter and sugar but soon extends to a wide range of foodstuffs, fuel and consumer goods. A black market soon emerges. Rationing continues after the war, up until July 1954.

1973

Trials of Watergate burglars begin
A break-in occurred the previous June at the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington DC. The scandal leads to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974.

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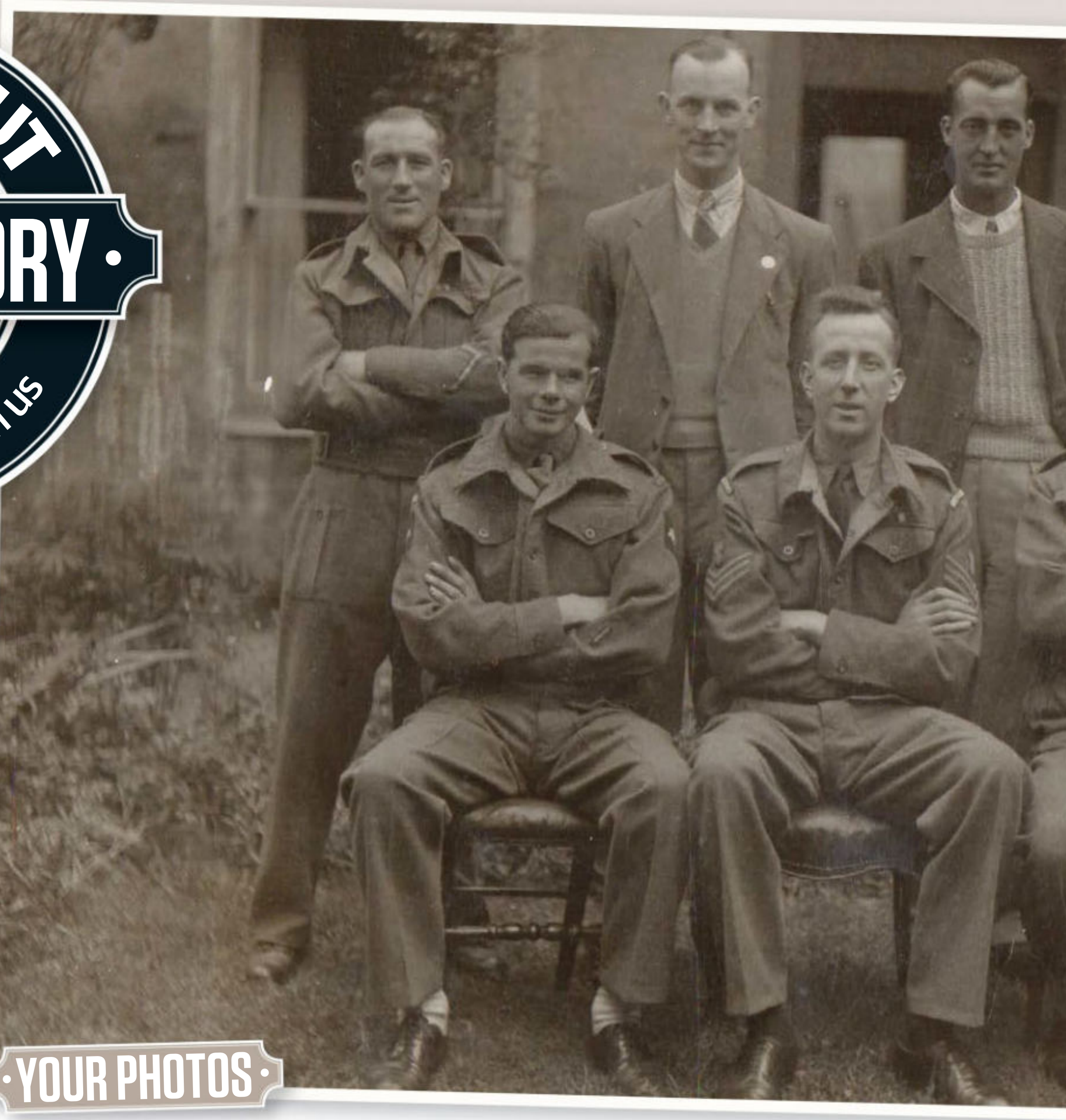


YOUR PHOTOS

A pair of war heroes

Ted Cardwell

I was going through my father's belongings when I uncovered some very interesting items from World War II, which got me thinking about the exciting life he led and the amazing things he had achieved. Among the medals, service cards and programmes for victory shows there are a few rare photographs of Ted in his youth, but none of these truly capture his experience of the war, so I decided now is the perfect time to tell his story.

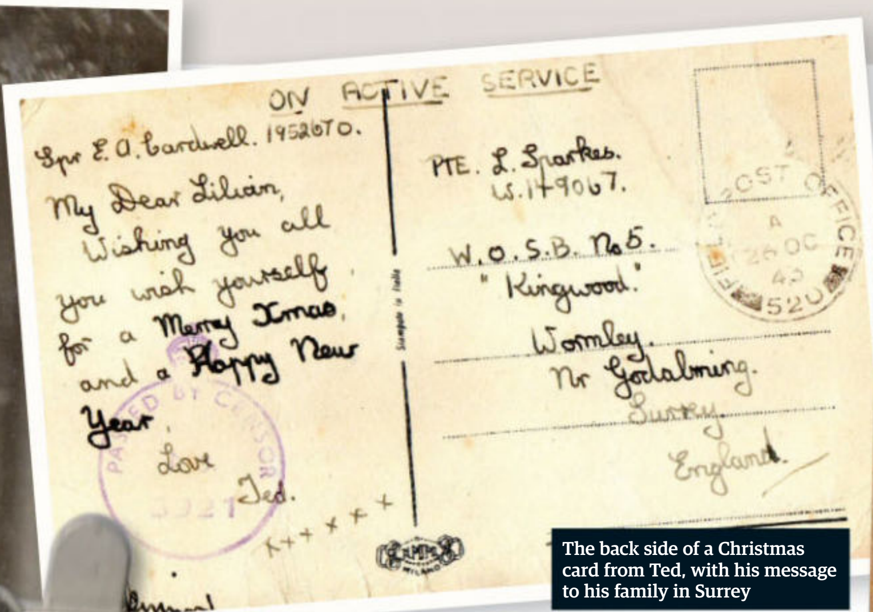
My father served in the Airborne 4th parachute squadron where he rose to the rank of sergeant, and his number was 1952760. When he first joined the force he immediately bonded with another young man called Frankie Peacock. A quick friendship developed between the two and together they trained at Salisbury Plain, were both posted to North Africa and ended up parachuting into Arnhem together. The two men were inseparable.

It seems that their friendship became somewhat legendary, as when I was working as a cab driver I picked up a passenger who revealed to me he was an old soldier. We got talking and he asked me if the names Snake Hip Johnson and Frankie Peacock meant anything to me. I responded that yes, Snake Hip Johnson was my dad's nickname when he was serving. The old soldier immediately recounted memories of my father, about how he got shot in the arm, and how Frankie got a scar on his cheek.

However, most vivid to me were the memories he recounted of the two men, known as the 'terrible twins', risking their own lives to drag soldiers out of the way of oncoming German tanks at the Battle of

Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk

A Christmas card featuring Sgt Cardwell and his fellow troop members



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Spr E. A. Cardwell. 1952670.

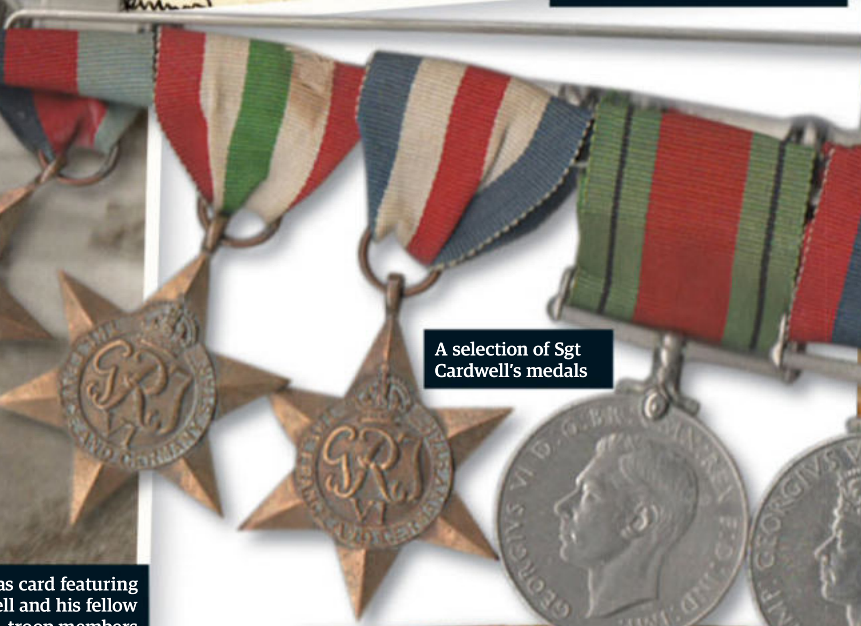
My Dear Lilian,
Wishing you all
you wish yourself
for a Merry Xmas
and a Happy New
Year
Love
Ted.
x++ x x x +

PTE. L. Sparkes.
W.149067.
W.O.S.B. No 5.
"Kingwood."
Wormley.
Nr Godalming.
Surrey
England.

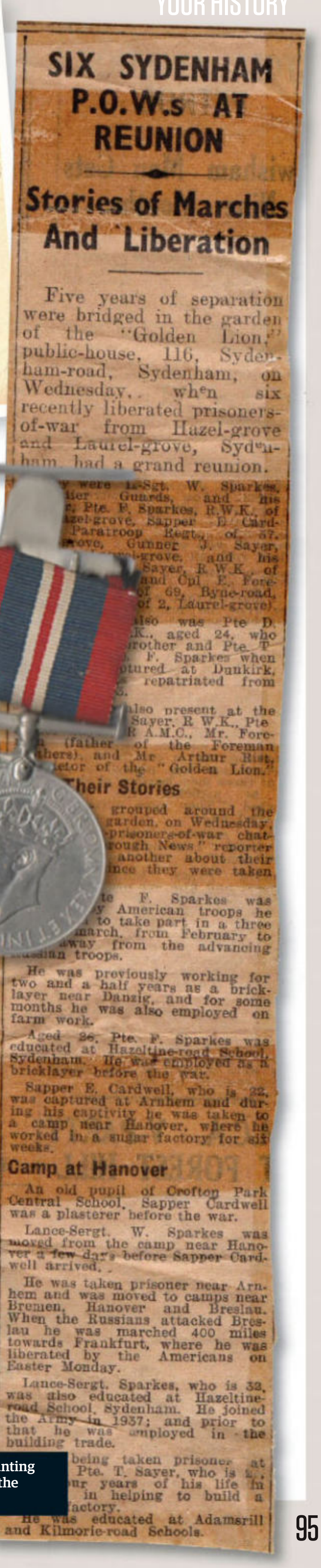
PASSED BY CENSOR

FIELD POST OFFICE
26 OC 43
520

The back side of a Christmas card from Ted, with his message to his family in Surrey



A selection of Sgt Cardwell's medals



SIX SYDENHAM P.O.W.s AT REUNION

Stories of Marches And Liberation

Five years of separation were bridged in the garden of the "Golden Lion," public-house, 116, Sydenham-road, Sydenham, on Wednesday,. when six recently liberated prisoners-of-war from Hazel-grove and Laurel-grove, Sydenham, had a grand reunion.

...y were L-Sgt. W. Sparkes, ...lier Guards, and his ...r, Pte. F. Sparkes, R.W.K., of ...zel-grove, Sapper E. Card- ... Paratroop Regt., of 57, ...rove, Gunner J. Sayer, ...-grove, and his ... Sayer, R.W.K., of ... and Cpl E. Fore- ...of 69, Byne-road, ...of 2, Laurel-grove).

...lso was Pte D. ...K., aged 24, who ...rother and Pte. T. ... F. Sparkes when ...ptured at Dunkirk, ... repatriated from ...s.

...lso present at the ... Sayer, R.W.K., Pte ... R.A.M.C., Mr. Fore- ...n (father of the Foreman ...thers), and Mr Arthur Rist, ...etor of the "Golden Lion."

Their Stories

... grouped around the ... garden, on Wednesday, ...-prisoners-of-war chat- ...rough News" reporter ... another about their ...ince they were taken.

...te F. Sparkes was ...y American troops he ... to take part in a three ... march, from February to ... away from the advancing ...ussian troops.

He was previously working for two and a half years as a bricklayer near Danzig, and for some months he was also employed on farm work.

Aged 26, Pte. F. Sparkes was educated at Hazeltine-road School, Sydenham. He was employed as a bricklayer before the war.

Sapper E. Cardwell, who is 22, was captured at Arnhem and during his captivity he was taken to a camp near Hanover, where he worked in a sugar factory for six weeks.

Camp at Hanover

An old pupil of Crofton Park Central School, Sapper Cardwell was a plasterer before the war.

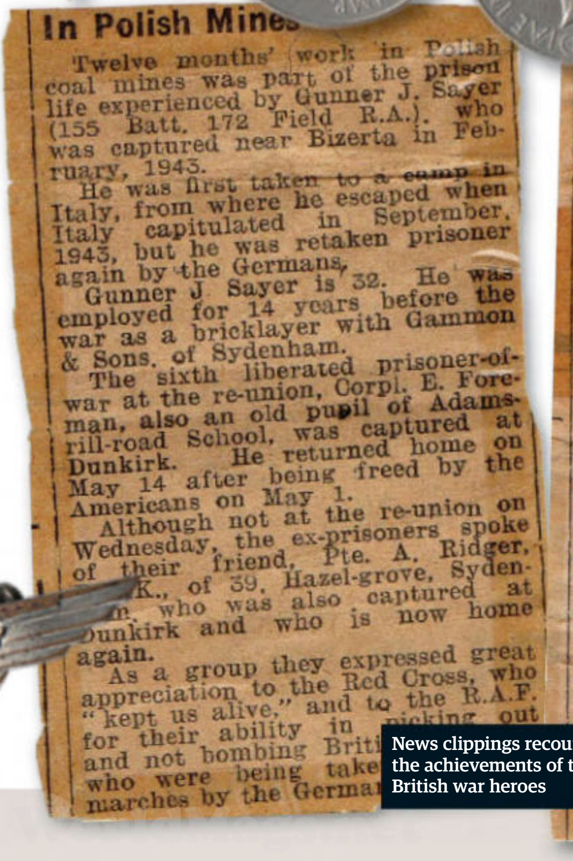
Lance-Sergt. W. Sparkes was moved from the camp near Hanover a few days before Sapper Cardwell arrived.

He was taken prisoner near Arnhem and was moved to camps near Bremen, Hanover and Breslau. When the Russians attacked Breslau he was marched 400 miles towards Frankfurt, where he was liberated by the Americans on Easter Monday.

Lance-Sergt. Sparkes, who is 32, was also educated at Hazeltine-road School, Sydenham. He joined the Army in 1937; and prior to that he was employed in the building trade.

... being taken prisoner at ... Pte. T. Sayer, who is ... ...ur years of his life in ... in helping to build a ...factory.

He was educated at Adamsrill and Kilmorie-road Schools.



In Polish Mines

Twelve months' work in Polish coal mines was part of the prison life experienced by Gunner J. Sayer (155 Batt. 172 Field R.A.). who was captured near Bizerta in February, 1943.

He was first taken to a camp in Italy, from where he escaped when Italy capitulated in September, 1943, but he was retaken prisoner again by the Germans.

Gunner J Sayer is 32. He was employed for 14 years before the war as a bricklayer with Gammon & Sons, of Sydenham.

The sixth liberated prisoner-of-war at the re-union, Corpl. E. Foreman, also an old pupil of Adamsrill-road School, was captured at Dunkirk. He returned home on May 14 after being freed by the Americans on May 1.

Although not at the re-union on Wednesday, the ex-prisoners spoke of their friend, Pte. A. Ridger, ...K., of 39, Hazel-grove, Sydenham, who was also captured at Dunkirk and who is now home again.

As a group they expressed great appreciation to the Red Cross, who "kept us alive," and to the R.A.F. for their ability in picking out and not bombing Briti... who were being take... marches by the Germa...

News clippings recounting the achievements of the British war heroes

Arnhem. The tanks were simply steamrolling over the soldiers' bodies. My father had never told me about this.

My father was captured at [the Battle of] Arnhem with over 6,000 other Allied soldiers and was taken to a camp near Hanover, where he worked in a sugar factory for six weeks. My dad received many medals for his heroism and service during World War II, such as The Star, The France and Germany Star, The Defence Medal and another medal, all of which are now in my possession. He was also a life member of the Royal Engineers Association and the Arnhem Veterans Club. At his funeral there was one very important speech, spoken by his old friend Frank Peacock. I still have the speech today, something I treasure perhaps even more than his medals.

Do you have any family stories to share?

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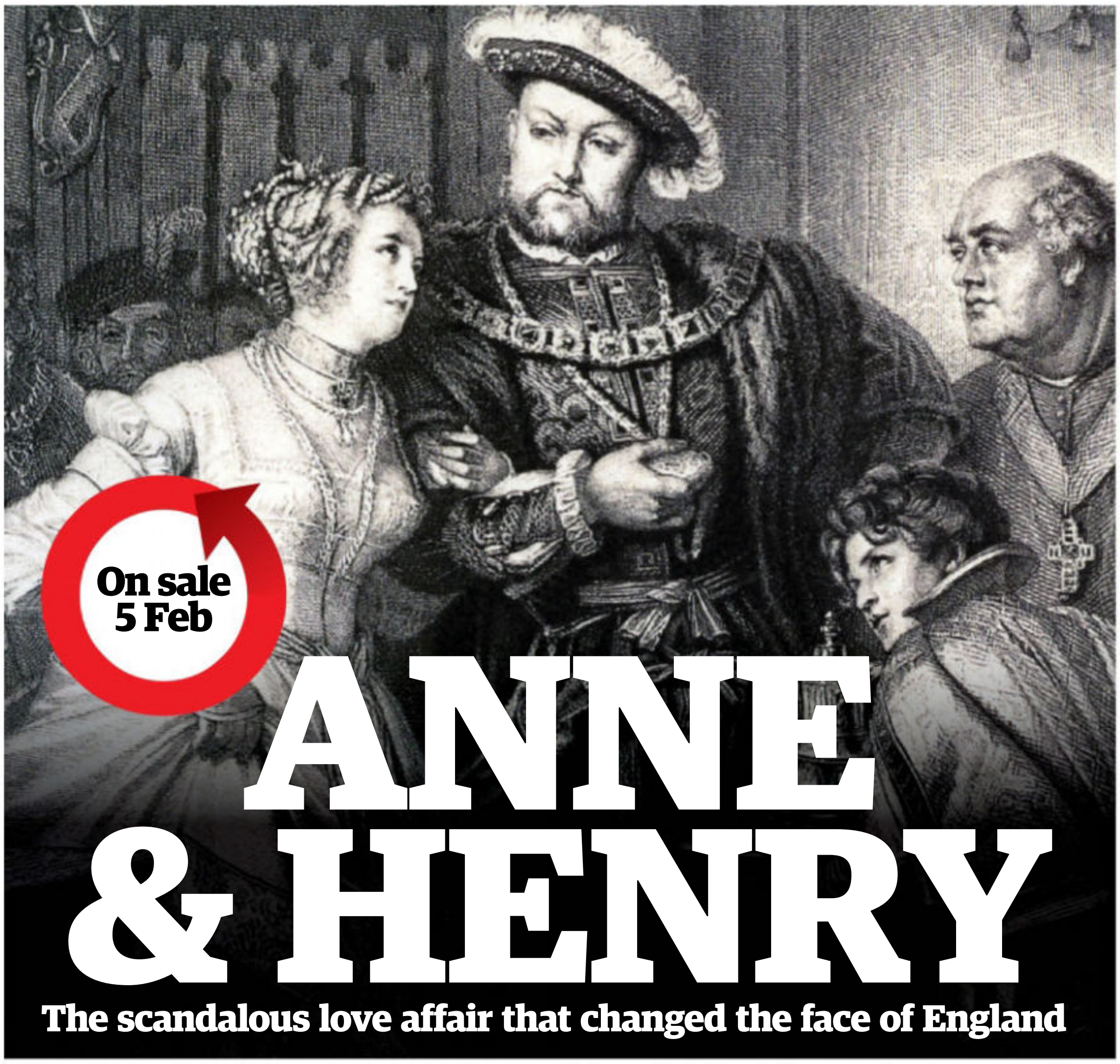

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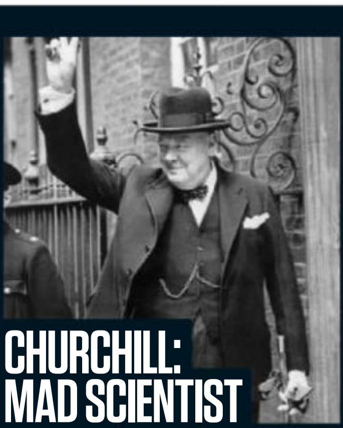

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

THE PATRIOT

Director: Roland Emmerich **Starring:** Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Joely Richardson **Country of origin:** USA **Year made:** 2000

Does this Hollywood depiction of the American Revolutionary War come under heavy fire?

What they got right

African slaves are shown fighting among the British forces. The redcoats recruited many slaves to fight during the American Revolution, such as the Ethiopian Regiment, and these slave soldiers were promised their freedom in return for their service. Native American soldiers are also shown, which is true to history.

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 Gibson's Benjamin Martin is based on militia leader Francis Marion, portrayed in the film as a family man and a hero. In reality, Swamp Fox, as Marion was known, was a serial rapist who murdered Cherokee Indians in the name of fun.

02 The film's portrayal of slavery has come under criticism as "a whitewashing of history". In the film Martin doesn't own slaves, but this is unlikely considering his status and the film's era, and even Gibson called this decision "a cop-out".

03 One of the film's harshest criticisms is for its portrayal of atrocities committed by the British. The redcoats are shown killing POWs and even burning a church packed with unarmed civilians. This has no factual basis in any 18th-century war.

04 Martin's sister-in-law Charlotte is shown wearing a selection of dresses that at the time would have been considered revealing and scandalous. She is also shown wearing her hair down, which was considered risqué.

05 In the film Cornwallis orders to "Sound the retreat" at the end of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, while the Americans celebrate victory. In reality, the British won this battle and Nathanael Greene's American army was forced to retreat.

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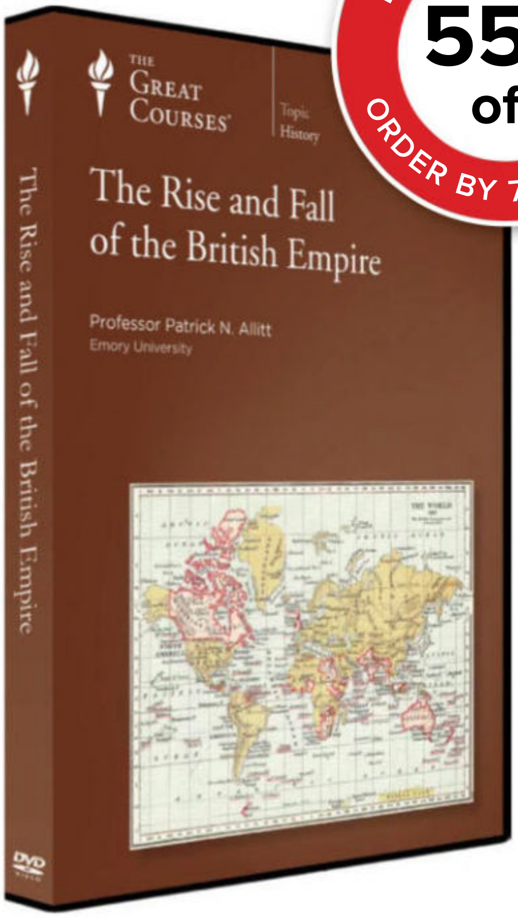
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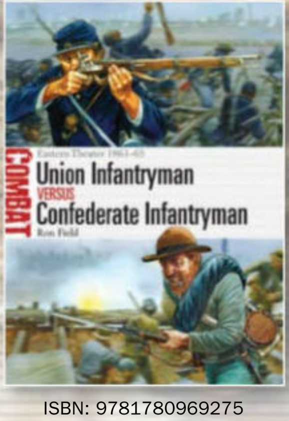

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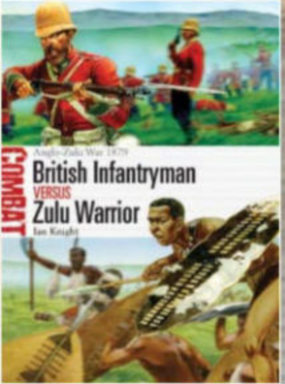

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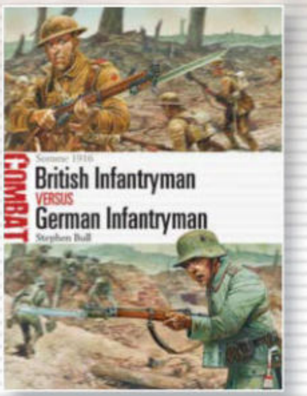

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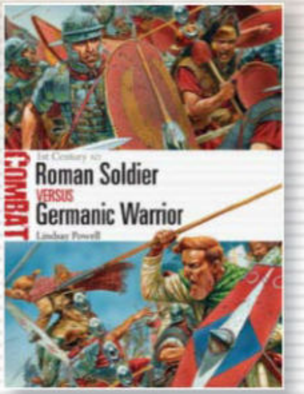

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